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Youngsters enjoy a last train ride yesterday before vacation ends. The trains have proven a hit with the youngsters this summer, with 150,000 of them riding the rails during July and August. Overall use of Israel Railways was up 28 percent over the summer according to their statistics.

IDF promises settlers to solve water problems

HERB KEINON

RESIDENTS of the settlements of Ofra, Bet-El and Psagot, whose water supply has been disrupted recently, were promised yesterday by OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz that the IDF will solve their water problems.

Water to these settlements comes from a pump in Ramallah, and settlement leaders charge that their water supply is periodically sabotaged, leaving them without water for long stretches at a time. These settlements have been without running water for the past two days.

In addition, settlement authorities say that some 10 children in these

communities have come down with jaundice recently, after drinking from unsanitary water reserves in their settlements.

After a demonstration by a few hundred residents of these settlements in front of the civil administration headquarters in Ramallah, Mofaz told leaders of Beit El and the Binyamin Regional Council that the army would replenish the water reserves in the settlements.

Mofaz also promised the IDF will take care of the water supply problem from Ramallah, and that the water supply to the settlements would be resumed by last night.

Clalit recovery talks continue

Jerusalem Post Staff

ANOTHER meeting was held yesterday on economic recovery plans for Kupat Holim, attended by Finance Minister Avram Shohat, Health Minister Ephraim Sheh, Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Hamon and heads of Kupat Holim Clalit.

It was decided at the meeting that the "Team Four" - Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Mordechai Shani, Kupat Holim Director-General Avigdor Kaplan, Histadrut Treasurer Haim Oron and Deputy Treasury Wage Director Shai Talmon - would continue meeting on the matter.

Israel to stay neutral on birth control at population conference

JUDY SIEGEL

ISRAEL's eight-member delegation to the UN Population Conference, which opens in Cairo on Monday, will "not take a stand" in the battle between liberals and conservatives over abortion and birth control, the Foreign Ministry has announced.

"We are almost in a unique position," said Avi Milo, chairman of the Foreign Ministry's international organizations department. "We are a small country of five million that wants to increase its population, but we also allow abortions under supervised conditions. We cannot be judged in the way that China, India and Indonesia are."

The UN conference meets once in a decade to discuss the ballooning world population - presently 5.4 billion, with 230,000 new babies born every day. Although the Cairo location is an apt one because the developing world is responsible for most of the world's population growth, Islamic opponents of abortion and birth control in the area are putting pressure on the organizers to adopt conservative policies. Some Muslim countries, such as Sudan, have even decided to boycott the event.

According to foreign news reports in recent weeks, the Vatican has

asked Islamic fundamentalist nations to join it in attempting to prevent the conference from adopting a liberal attitude on abortion and contraception.

The Vatican reportedly sent a message to President Ezer Weizman, asking him to make a statement coinciding with the conservative viewpoint. The president consulted with the Foreign Ministry, which stated that the government of Israel "doesn't advocate family planning in the way it is understood in most Western nations; Israel encourages an increase in its population."

The state delegation's position has raised the hackles of a number of family planning advocates, including Ella Bargai, executive director of the Israel Family Planning Association. Bargai, who is one of three non-governmental organization representatives from Israel who will attend the Cairo meeting, told *The Jerusalem Post* that she was upset because "the official Israeli position paper speaks only about demographic problems and nothing else - nothing about women's health and fertility problems, rights of the individual to de-

cide what is best for him or her, sex education and equality between the sexes."

Bargai noted that the Foreign Ministry statement on "not advocating family planning in the way it is understood in most Western nations" was "not neutral" but closer to the view of the Vatican and Islamic countries, "which the ministry would like to improve relations."

Milo said three women will be part of the state delegation, including Prof. Alice Shalvi of the Israel Women's Network. It will be headed by Dr. Baruch Levy, chairman of the Israel Demographics Council, and include Wizo head Michal Moda'i and Nava Arad, the prime minister's adviser on the status of women.

Even though Israeli delegates "will not take a position in the Vatican-Western dispute," they will be at the week-long conference "because everyone will be there, and because if asked, we will be happy to explain how we deal with immigrant absorption, employment and health matters," Milo said. Asked to predict how the conference will end, Milo said there was no choice but for the delegates to reach a consensus on population control.

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Baram rejects tour guides' demand that all pilgrim groups have Israeli guides

HAIM SHAPIRO

TOURISM Minister Uzi Baram said yesterday that the ministry, together with the police, would begin a campaign to bring to trial uncertified tour guides, but he refused to agree to a demand by the Tour Guides Association that the ministry insist that all groups of pilgrims have Israeli guides.

Baram told the guides that it would not be wise to have a confrontation with the Church, which could affect the flow of incoming pilgrims. He told the guides that it would be better

to reach some form of understanding.

The guides yesterday held a protest meeting at Jerusalem's Laromme Hotel over what they said was the absence of qualified guides for many tourist groups, in violation of the law, as well as the agreement with the Palestinians which allows the Palestinian Authority to certify its own guides. Yossi Grau, chairman of the Association, said that the Foreign Ministry had "handed over" tourism in Israel to the Palestinians.

Jerusalem Municipality decides to replace garbage containers destroyed by haredi rioters

BILL HUTMAN

CALLS by opposition Jerusalem city councilors to "let the trash pile up" in haredi neighborhoods where haredi protesters set fire to trash containers during recent demonstrations were narrowly defeated yesterday.

The city purchasing committee approved NIS 53,000 in special funding to buy new trash containers for the Mea She'arim and Geula neighborhoods.

The funding was passed by a 3-2 vote, after committee head Larissa Girshtein (United Jerusalem) cast a second vote in favor, as allowed for under city by-laws in cases of tied committee votes.

She said she supported the funding because there was no proof that it was the residents who destroyed the bins, and therefore they should not have to suffer for the actions of others.

"We couldn't just leave the resi-

dents to suffer without trash containers, especially right before the holidays," Girshtein said.

Tsomet councilor Eli Cohen said the neighborhood residents should have been forced to pay for new containers to replace ones burned by demonstrators during riots against archaeological digs being conducted in various parts of the country.

"I realize that not all the residents took part in the demonstrations, but everyone there must take responsibility. They should have done something to stop the rioting," Cohen said.

"We should have just let the trash pile up there until the residents took initiative to deal with the problem themselves," Cohen said.

Last year the city also had to allocate special funding to replace trash containers set on fire by rioting haredim.

Animal rights group petitions for custody of stray horses

LIAT COLLINS and Itim

AN animal rights group is concerned about the fate of two horses which have been wandering around the Carmel area for three weeks, apparently without regular supplies of water or food.

Representatives of the Haifa branch of the Let Animals Live organization say the horses have been abused by local children and youth. One horse has lost an eye.

Yesterday the group went to Haifa Magistrate's Court seeking an urgent injunction to have the animals brought to the Let the Animals Live shelter at Moshav Ein Ayal.

Judge Hanoch Shiloni granted the group's lawyer Aryeh Caspi the injunction basing his decision on the new Cruelty to Animals Law. However, when group volunteers went to collect the animals, one horse had disappeared and a group of youths claimed ownership on the other.

"Right now the situation doesn't look too good," said Haifa branch spokeswoman Rivka Harosh. "We need to find the one horse, which has obviously been put in hiding somewhere. And we must go back to court over the other one to prove that the horse does not belong to these kids and that he is being mistreated." She said that one of the horses is very sick and had no water to drink.

Apart from the cruelty problem, the horses crossed the roads and entered private courtyards posing a danger to the nearby residents, Caspi said in court. Meanwhile, the Tel Aviv branch of Let the Animals Live is coping with a new case of dog abuse, this time a rottweiler whose throat was cut in Beit Shemesh. Also, a Jerusalem resident yesterday filed a complaint to police Shemesh. She was severely burned, apparently by youths, in East Talpote over the weekend. Yael Bar-Shov is appealing for witnesses to the burning to call: 02-732459.

On a brighter note, Jeunesse Cosmetics has dedicated the income from a calendar to Let the Animals Live. The calendar, showing animal pictures, carries the slogan: "The moral state of a nation is judged by the way it treats its animals." It costs NIS 49 and can be purchased via telephones: 03-524-0007 or 03-641-9492.

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Russia: West slow to reward Belgrade

KURT SCHORK
SARAJEVO

RUSSIA, sparking concern that diplomatic differences might undermine Bosnian peace efforts, complained yesterday that its Western allies were being tardy in supporting rump Yugoslavia for breaking with Bosnia's Serbs.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Western governments had to overcome their reluctance to reward Belgrade for backing the peace deal and blockading the Bosnian Serbs to try to force them to accept the package.

"Very great reserve is being shown in the work with our Western partners," Itar-Tass news agency quoted Kozyrev as saying after a brief tour of former Yugoslavia.

On the fringes of northwestern Bosnia, meanwhile, thousands of Bosnian Muslim refugees who are marooned in a man's land between rebel Serbs and the Croatian army marched on a crossing point demanding entry to a Croatian-held zone, witnesses said.

Led by children with adults bringing up the rear, refugees from a collapsed Muslim insurgency in Bosnia's Bihać region approached the checkpoint at Turanj, waving portraits of toppled leader Fikret Abdic, Reuters journalists reported.

Kozyrev, who was on his way from Zagreb to Berlin when he made his remarks to Tass, said Western policy towards Belgrade was hampered by "bureaucratic inertia" and "little flexibility." He is pushing for a swift lifting of sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro for backing the Serb war effort in Bosnia.

He had said on Monday while in Zagreb: "Our conviction is that at least some sanctions should be immediately lifted to reward Belgrade for its courageous approach."



Muslim refugees from Bihać in west Bosnia wait to enter Croatia at a UN checkpoint yesterday. (AP)

The West does not have the enthusiasm of Moscow, traditional ally of the Serbs, for lifting sanctions without safeguards. They want international monitoring of Belgrade's blockade of Bosnian Serbs, but Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic has so far refused to accept such surveillance.

A previous blockade of the Bosnian border in May 1993 proved a facade and skepticism lingers in the West about the thoroughness of this year's effort. European Union peace mediator Lord Owen warned

of the dangers of divisions between the five big powers who drew up the peace deal, saying only a united front could force Bosnia's Serbs to eventually accept the deal rejected in a weekend poll.

Referring to the Bosnian Serb leadership in their stronghold of Pale, Owen told reporters in Geneva: "If we keep our nerve, hold firm and keep the cohesion of the contact group then ultimately Pale will have to recognize that they will have to live with it (the plan)." Bosnian Serb leaders said the

referendum had vindicated their opposition to the peace deal. As election officials began a second day of counting ballots, their chairman estimated a 90 percent turnout and said 96 percent had voted "no."

Final results are expected to be announced at a meeting of the Bosnian Serb assembly tomorrow. Bosnian Serb leader called the referendum to back up opposition to the plan, which would divide the former Yugoslav republic roughly in half between Serbs and

a federation of their Muslim and Croat foes.

Bihać refugees confronted UN troops and heavily armed Croatian soldiers at the Turanj checkpoint for about 30 minutes before retreating to the flimsy shelters that have been home since they fled the fall of the rebel enclave.

"There's a great risk of violence because of so many thousands packed into a very small area," Paul Riskey of the UN Protection Force said. (Reuters)

Philippine coal mine blast kills 79

MANILA (AP) — An explosion in the Philippines' largest underground coal mine left at least 79 workers dead and 20 missing, an official said yesterday.

The blast, in a tunnel about 800 km south of Manila, was the second at the mine in the past six months. An explosion there in March killed 11.

There were conflicting reports about what caused the blast. One official said miners hit a pocket of methane gas that exploded, but a local mayor said the accident was triggered by a dynamite explosion.

The explosion took place inside a tunnel at the state-run Philippine National Oil Co. mine, which is near Malangas town in Zamboanga del Sur province, a remote area with poor communications.

The mine produces about 200,000 tons of coal annually. In a telephone interview from the provincial capital of Pagadian, Gov. Isidoro Real Jr. said that 79 bodies have been counted as of 6:45 p.m. (1045 GMT).

Real said an estimated 20 to 30 more workers were trapped inside the mine, and many relatives of the victims crowded near the mine site waiting for word on the workers.

"They were crying, specially those who were near the tunnel waiting for their loved ones who are still inside. It was a pitiful sight," Real said.

He said the dead were taken to a funeral parlor in nearby Buug, but the town lacked coffins.

At least nine workers were flown yesterday to central Cebu City for burn treatment. (Reuters)

Nazario Vasquez, president of the PNOG Energy Corp., which operates the mine, earlier said some of the missing workers may have been just absent from work.

"We are crossing our fingers that all of them are still alive," he told reporters.

Yesterday afternoon, company spokesman Leonardo Ote said 54 bodies had been collected. Ote could not be reached for comment on Real's report.

Vasquez said about 170 miners were working at the time of the accident.

He said the workers, who were mining at about 150 meters underground, hit a pocket of water.

He said the rush of water was accompanied by methane gas, which exploded.

But Mayor Cecilio Tura, quoting miners, said the accident was caused by a dynamite explosion that mixed with poisonous gases.

"I interviewed the miners and they said there was a blast of dynamite," Tura said in a radio interview.

"There was an open fire and methane gas, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide mixed," Tura said rescuers could not enter the tunnels because the mine has already collapsed.

Ote denied Tura's claim that the explosion was caused by a dynamite and that the tunnel had collapsed.

Methane gas, which is odorless and colorless, is present in coal deposits and safety officers use gauges to monitor its level and signal miners of danger. (Reuters)

US gets grip on Caribbean crisis

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Seven Caribbean nations have agreed to join an American-led military coalition to remove Haiti's ruling elite, senior US government officials said yesterday.

The seven were to announce their participation at a meeting here of defense and foreign ministers from members of the 13-nation Caribbean Community.

The countries are Barbados, Trinidad, Antigua, Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica and Belize, according to a US official who spoke to reporters en route from Washington on grounds that he not be identified.

Barbados, Jamaica and Belize already had indicated they would contribute to the coalition, which would consist mainly of American troops. The Caribbean forces would perform mainly police functions in the immediate aftermath of an invasion, should President Clinton decide to launch the attack.

"We are very close to exhausting all peaceful means" of restoring democracy in Haiti, the official said. He said the administration was not yet ready to issue a final ultimatum for Haiti's ruling mili-

tary elite to leave the island. The planned US-led force would include thousands of troops, supplemented by police, civilian technicians and administrators.

Its mission would be to forcibly remove Haitian army chief Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras and the rest of the military leadership if they do not quit the country first. If the junta leaves before the force is used, it would still be used to stabilize the country.

Meanwhile, one week after more than 3,200 Cuban boat people headed for US shores in a single chaotic day, a series of encouraging developments have Clinton administration officials breathing somewhat easier on the other Caribbean crisis.

US officials attribute a sharp drop in the numbers of boat people in the last few days to a combination of bad weather and round-the-clock appeals for Cubans to stay home.

"Growing numbers of Cubans understand that they will not come to the United States if they are picked up in the Straits (of Florida)," Undersecretary of State Fe-

ter Tarnoff said yesterday. By then, only 118 Cubans had been intercepted by the US Coast Guard throughout the day. The final tally for Monday was 295.

Tarnoff also said Cuban authorities have begun to take "some small steps" to counsel Cubans not to flee by boat. Until now, the authorities did nothing to dissuade Cubans from leaving so long as they did so in their own vessels.

In addition, President Fidel Castro has ordered that any vessel with minors aboard be prevented from leaving Cuban shores. The White House and State Department welcomed the move.

And Panama's incoming foreign minister, Gabriel Lewis Galindo, said his country is willing to receive up to 10,000 Cuban refugees for six months if the United States houses them at American military bases along the Panama Canal and takes responsibility for them.

Another encouraging sign, Tarnoff said, is that about 225 Cubans of the more than 13,000 taken to the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have asked for permission to return home.

Ireland awaits expected IRA cease-fire

ANNE SENIOR
BELFAST

WITH a mixture of excitement and foreboding, Northern Ireland began a final countdown yesterday to an expected IRA cease-fire that could break a 25-year cycle of violence and set the province on the path to peace.

The United States is considering an aid package if the widely anticipated cease-fire is successful, White House Press Secretary Dee Myers said yesterday.

"First of all, we'll wait to see what the terms of a cease-fire would be and then I think we'll determine (what steps to take)," said Myers, who accompanied President Clinton on his vacation at Martha's Vineyard. "There are a number of options to provide aid to Ireland already," she said.

But Unionist hard-liners vowing no surrender to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) said a unilateral cease-fire would only provoke a bitter backlash and provide "a recipe for civil war."

Britain ruled out any concessions in return for a cease-fire. Senior officials in London said only a permanent end to IRA vio-

lence would enable the group's political allies, Sinn Féin, to join talks on Northern Ireland's future.

After months of rumors, Sinn Féin put the province on high alert for an announcement with a hint that the IRA were about to suspend their battle against British rule for the first time since 1975.

Republican sources say the IRA is ready to test a nonviolent strategy in the hope of getting improved terms on an Anglo-Irish peace formula that offered full talks with Sinn Féin if the Nationalist fighters laid down their arms.

But the truce, trailed by Sinn Féin's talk on Monday of a "speedy" IRA move, may fall short of a full end to violence and allow "defensive action" against Unionist murder squads fighting to maintain the province's British link.

As the mounting tension threatened to ignite sectarian hatreds,

London assured the province's majority Protestant population that the government insists on a complete end to IRA violence and will not reward anything less.

"There is no question of any changes in that policy and no question of concessions to anyone," an official said in London.

Nationalist political leader John Hume and his Unionist counterpart James Molyneux both appealed for calm in the tense run-up to the cease-fire, which some experts were expecting by last night.

"We can all keep blaming each other for the past and there is a lot to blame for. But the time has come, I believe, now to draw a line...over the past," said Hume, who has been working with Sinn Féin's Adams on nudging the IRA towards a truce.

"Let history judge it and let us look to the future." But one Unionist extremist group, the illegal Ulster Freedom

Fighters, inflamed deep fears that the IRA olive branch may only push the province back into the sectarian battles of the 1960s and 1970s.

When the IRA tried an open-ended cease-fire 19 years ago to promote dialogue with Britain, Unionist death squads unleashed a campaign of wanton violence against Nationalists.

"Rather than being, in your words, 'an historic opportunity for a settlement of the Ulster conflict,' it is a recipe for civil war," said the group, whose fighters target the Roman Catholic Nationalist community from which the IRA draws support.

The talk of civil war was echoed by hard-line Unionist leader Ian Paisley, who said the IRA would never halt its war without an assurance from Britain that the island would one day be reunited.

"If he (Adams) comes out with a cease-fire, then the people of Northern Ireland will know they have been sacrificed on the altar of political expediency and that will bring about the most serious situation Ulster has had since 1920," he said. (Reuters)

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Briton jailed for filming under women's skirts

DUBAI (Reuters) — A Briton has been jailed for six months and ordered deported for filming under the skirts of girls and women in Dubai supermarkets with a hidden video camera, the newspaper al-Khaleej said yesterday.

The man, named only as Gary, placed a small video-camera close to the floor in supermarkets to film under the skirts of unwary women browsing along the shelves.

He was caught by chance by two passing policemen. An appeals court found him guilty of violating the decency of those women, although none had been identified. It ordered he be deported from the United Arab Emirates on completing his sentence, the paper said. A lower court had earlier dismissed the charges because none of the women had complained.

Rwandan Patriotic Front takes over French zone

KIGALI (AP) — Rwanda's Tutsi-led government will install civilian administrators into the southwestern corner of the country recently vacated by French forces, a UN official said yesterday.

Shaharyar Khan head of the UN mission in Rwanda, said the United Nations would be helping the government led by the former rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front to re-establish civilian authority in the former French security zone now under UN control.

Government security forces would be phased in after that, Khan told a news conference.

Front forces defeated the former government military in July, but did not take control of the zone set up by the French military to protect hundreds of thousands of Rwandans fleeing the rebels.

The French withdrew nine days ago, handing the zone to the UN. More than one million Rwandans are currently in the zone. Some 70,000 crossed over to Bukavu, Zaire when the French withdrew but there was no mass exodus such as overwhelmed Goma a month earlier.

"All has gone well for the last nine days and

we hope that this peaceful atmosphere will continue," Khan said, adding that Rwandans were trickling back slowly into the zone from Zaire.

But more than one million Rwandans are still living miserably in refugee camps in Zaire and other neighboring countries.

Up to 500,000 mostly Tutsi civilians were massacred by troops of the former government after President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was killed in an April 6 plane crash. Opposition Hutus were also slain.

70 missing in Angola ambush

LUANDA (Reuters) — About 70 people, including a Portuguese priest and two people linked to a US aid agency, were missing following an ambush in Angola by suspected UNITA rebels, aid officials said yesterday.

They said the 70 were traveling in a 20-vehicle convoy when they were ambushed near the coastal town of Porto Amboim, about 250 km south of Luanda.

"It is estimated that at least 70 people and 20 vehicles were captured," the state daily newspaper Jornal de Angola said. Ken McGhee, of the US aid agency Africare, told Reuters the Congolese husband of the organization's health coordinator, his Angolan driver, a priest and four nuns traveling in an Africare vehicle were among those missing.

Egyptian court refuses to block UN conference

CAIRO (AP) — Saudi Arabia and Sudan are pulling out of next week's UN international population conference. But an Egyptian court yesterday rejected a Muslim fundamentalist move to block the meeting.

The decision by the Saudis and Sudanese follows increasing criticism of the conference by Muslim fundamentalists who claim the meeting's draft resolutions violate Islamic principles and encourage sex outside marriage.

An official at conference headquarters in Cairo said yesterday the Saudis officially withdrew from the meeting without explanation.

Sudanese officials announced a boycott Monday, saying the session would lead to "the spread of immoral and irreligious values."

Saudi Arabia and Sudan are the first countries to withdraw from the UN International Conference on Population and Development, which opens Monday and is expected to draw some 15,000 people.

However, two other nations with Muslim majorities have canceled plans for their prime ministers to attend, though both will send delegations. Turkey's Foreign Ministry an-

nounced yesterday that Prime Minister Tansu Ciller would be too busy with parliamentary business to travel to Cairo.

Last week, Bangladesh Prime Minister Khairul Haque also cited a busy schedule as reason for not attending.

In Cairo, the Administrative Judicial Court rejected three suits by Muslim fundamentalist lawyers who claimed the UN conference would challenge Islamic law and Egyptian customs.

"Egypt is an Islamic country which shouldn't allow this conference to be held here," attorney Abdel-Halim Mandour said after yesterday's decision was announced.

The decision, read by Judge Abdel-Aziz Hamada, said the lawsuits were outside the court's jurisdiction since President Hosni Mubarak, in inviting the conference to Cairo, was acting under presidential rights.

The lawyers who brought suit said they would file an immediate appeal, but it was unclear if it would be heard before the meeting starts.

It was not expected an Egyptian court would rule against holding the meeting. Background report, Page 5



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Threats made against UN forum invitees

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

ISLAMIC militants' threats to attack foreigners who attend a UN conference on population that opens in Cairo on September 5 have been mounting rapidly, raising fears that Egypt may be in for a new round of extremist violence following several months of relative calm.

As the warnings came, gunmen opened fire on a four bus in southern Egypt, killing a 14-year-old Spanish boy in the first lethal attack on tourists since March. Two police officers also died in separate clashes with militants over the weekend.

A statement from the Islamic Group, the main Islamic organization fighting the Egyptian government, was the first explicit threat of violence against foreigners planning to attend the conference, which has been widely criticized by Islamic organizations as a plot by the West to impose its ideas of birth control and morality on the socially conservative Islamic world.

"The group, as it starts a new round of operations, urges all foreigners not to come to Egypt during the coming period for the sake of their lives," Reuters quoted the statement as saying.

The government has taken extraordinary security measures to protect the 20,000 foreigners expected to attend, posting soldiers outside every major hotel and at other key facilities.

One senior Egyptian govern-

ment official, who asked not to be identified, called the militants' latest threat "an act of utter desperation on their part. If you moved around Cairo today, you can see security everywhere. I'm very confident."

TWENTY YEARS from now, when there may be two billion more human beings to feed, clothe and house, where on earth will they all be put?

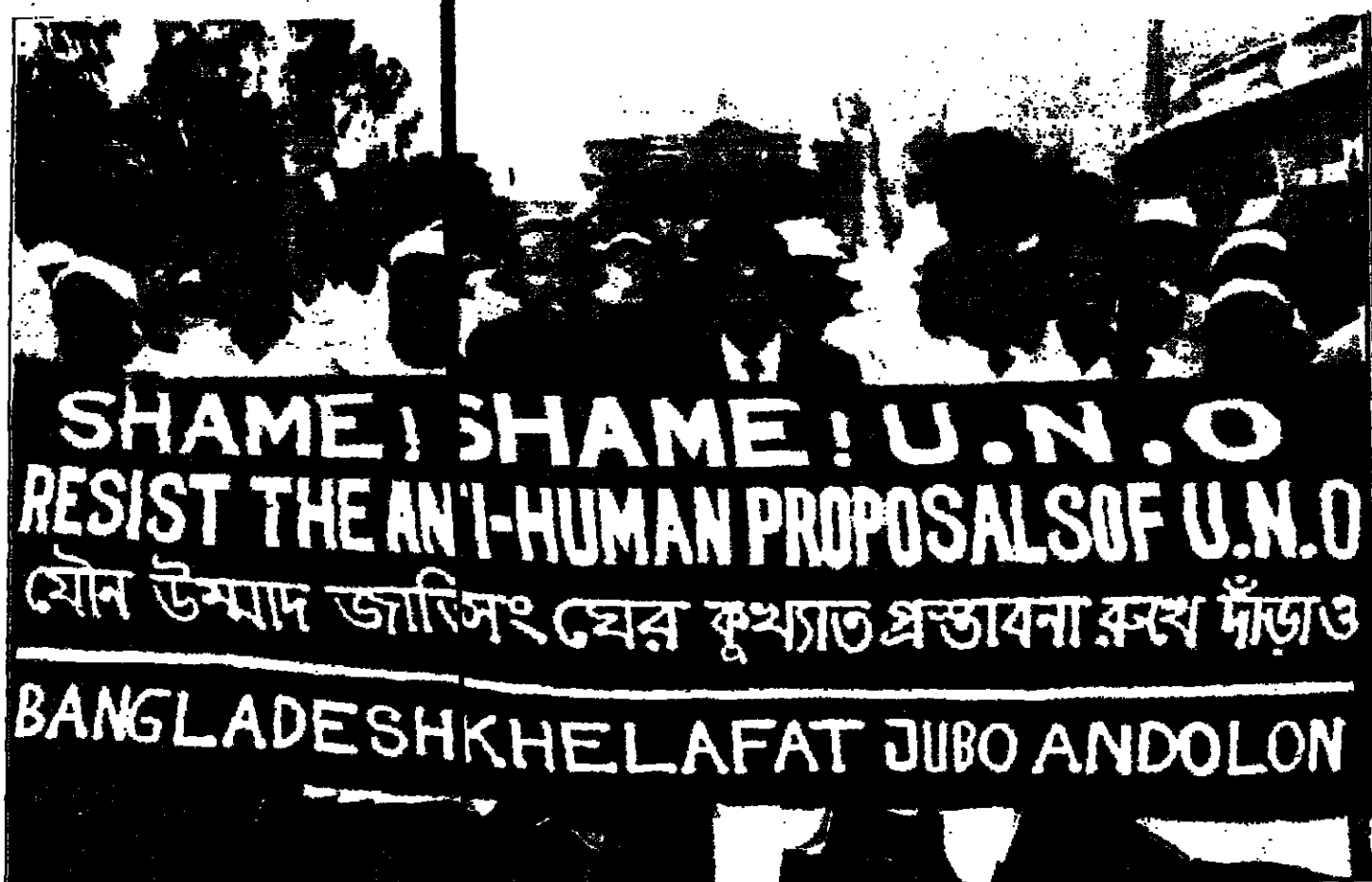
It is to search for answers that humanity's representatives will pack Cairo's hotels by the thousands for the International Conference on Population and Development.

But the secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid Algabid says Moslem states will try to change "anti-Islamic" parts of the draft resolution of the conference.

"I can single out three major aspects in the Cairo population draft which are contrary to the Islamic Shari'a," Algabid, who is visiting Iran, told the *Teheran Times* newspaper in an interview.

He listed favorable views on abortion, premarital sex and "giving unlimited freedom to children" among the objectionable sections of the draft, which has also roused the ire of Pope John Paul.

"All Moslem countries believe that the anti-Islamic provisions should be omitted from the population draft," said Algabid, whose



Moslem fundamentalist supporters march through Dhaka, Bangladesh urging cancellation of next month's conference in Cairo. (AP)

organization has 53 member countries.

Moslem delegates to the conference "will make the necessary amendments," he said. The interview in the English-language paper was reported by Iran's official news agency IRNA.

Iranian Health Minister Alireza Marandi said the draft document ignored Islamic values and promoted "sexual liberty," but Iran would take part in the conference and do its best to make the final document reflect "religious ethics."

The Vatican too has caused controversy by seeking comfort for its antiabortion, anticontraceptive

position from the Moslem world, including Libya and Iran. Al-Azhar Islamic University in Cairo, the world's most prestigious center of Moslem learning, has attacked a draft final report for the conference, saying it violates Islamic principles.

After Van envoys met representatives from the two countries, newspaper editorials in the US and Europe attacked it for dealing with medical regimes.

UN officials say the real solution to the population crisis is to empower women by improving their status, a developing countries through education, primary health care, greater economic op-

portunities and more access to birth control.

The chief UN delegate, undersecretary of state Tim Wirth, says governments know what must be done to control the growth of global population, now 5.7 billion.

"There's a huge 'unmet need' out there, and it's absolutely imperative that we do everything we can to meet that need, or our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will face an untenable situation," Wirth said in a Washington interview.

The "unmet need," identified via surveys, is an estimated 120 million couples in developing nations who want to limit their fam-

ily size but are not using contraceptives — because they're unavailable, because of tradition, and because of ignorance.

To help reach them, the Clinton administration has increased US foreign aid for family planning to \$600 million a year, from \$400m. Other governments are doing likewise. The Cairo conference's proposed "Program of Action" calls for still more, a quadrupling of international support to almost \$6 billion by the year 2000.

How the world responds may determine whether human population stays below 8 billion or tops 12 billion by the year 2050, UN projections show.

Iranian diva vows no return

NICOSIA (AP) — Marzieh, the grande dame of Iranian music during the shah's reign, this week vowed never to return to the homeland she recently forsook until the hard-line Moslem clerics who rule it are overthrown.

"[As long as] the rule of the mullahs remains, I will not return to Iran, because the regime is anti-art, antiwoman and anti-everything," the diva said.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution which overthrew the late shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, she and other singers and musicians have been barred from performing in public by the Islamic regime.

"After the revolution the clerics ordered us to shut up. They told me that no man who is a stranger is allowed to see you or hear your voice," the 70-year-old singer said in a telephone interview from Paris, where she arrived from Teheran three weeks ago.

Ancient sphinxes discovered

CAIRO (Reuters) — A cache of 2,000-year-old headless sphinxes, found by workmen digging in southern Cairo, may shed new light on ancient life near the pyramids, the head of Egypt's Antiquities Authority said this week.

Abdulhafiz Nur al-Din said the sphinxes, small versions of the giant half-lion, half-human statue which surveys the river Nile from the burial place of three pharaohs, were found 2.5 kilometers north of the pyramids at Giza.

He said an initial probe dated them to around the start of the Ptolemaic era (about 300 BCE), when Egypt was ruled by a Greek dynasty descended from the conqueror Alexander the Great.

"This is very important. It means Giza was inhabited in this period. We were not expecting to find a [Ptolemaic] presence here," Nur al-Din said in an interview this week. He said the discovery could come from a temple, a cemetery, a priest's house or an administrative building.

But the limestone mini-sphinxes, just 70 cm. long and less than half as old as the original, present a new riddle for archeologists.

"The heads of these statues are all broken," Nur al-Din said. "They meant to break them. Maybe [they broke them] later on in the same period. No one knows, but they were broken in their time."

The four heads are all missing, as is the head of a fifth sculpture, a lion. The remaining sphinx and lion bodies all look alike, but Nur al-Din said there is no doubt which is which.

"A sphinx has the body of a lion with the head of a king, but even without the heads we know the four are sphinxes by the sculpture and direction of their bodies," Nur al-Din said. "The lion still has traces of a mane on its back."

He said despite the difficulty of excavating in the narrow, built-up alley where the sphinxes were found, he hoped to start work to try to unravel the mystery of the missing heads and the site itself.

"The Sphinx has always been in ancient Egypt a symbol of... the sun god, but later in the Ptolemaic period the Sphinx became the symbol of the one who is guarding the cemetery," he said.

"So we might have [found] a temple, a cemetery, or we might have a cache, a place where they had to hide statues in a period of disorder."

"Just 600 meters away, we have an archeological site belonging to the city of the pyramids," Nur al-Din said. "So we expect to find part of a cemetery or administrative buildings or maybe the buildings of a priest."

"We might find them today or tomorrow or we might not find them at all," Nur al-Din said. "But we have to think: 'Why did they break the heads?' Because it was deliberate."

PA weekly: No change in Israel's superiority attitude

FATAH has blamed Israel for laying stumbling blocks before the Palestinians to make them perceive occupation as preferable to the period under the Palestinian Authority. It is demanding that Israelis change their attitude to the Palestinians and stop thinking about them with the occupiers' mentality as if they were benefactors.

The first issue of *Fatah the Revolution*, a new weekly published in Gaza by the Information and Culture Ministry, points out that despite the passage of a year, the signing of the Oslo agreements and four months since the realization of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho in preparation for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state which cannot be prevented — and despite the change in Palestinian thinking regarding Israel — Israel's attitude of superiority has not changed significantly.

Israel continues to arrest hundreds of Palestinians and to prevent workers from going to work in Israel to the extent that entry to

Israel and the West Bank is more difficult today than it was before the agreements.

Israel is delaying the creation of a secure passage to the autonomous areas, which has been agreed on, and dozens of Palestinians wait at the Rafiah passage. Israel is also placing stumbling blocks in the way of the delivery of Palestinian merchandise to Israeli markets while Israeli products reach Palestinian markets with ease.

Al Quds, Jerusalem, August 25

THE CONTROVERSY over Palestinian police salaries is still making waves. Knowledgeable sources told *Shihani* that dozens of officers and police have started secret discussions on what to do about salaries that are not in line with the pay scale proposed by the World Bank.

Yasser Arafat in the past set a pay scale different from that proposed by the World Bank. Under the Arafat scale, policemen get \$100 to \$200 a month less than the World Bank proposes, and offi-



ARAB NEWS DIGEST

cers \$300 to \$500 less.

Policemen and officers say the salaries set by Arafat are not enough to live on, and, furthermore, no one knows what is being done with the substantial surplus from the World Bank.

The reliable sources told *Shihani* the World Bank had hastened to ask the Palestinian Authority to return the difference since the money was budgeted and disbursed only for the police and Palestinian officials had no authority to use it for anything else without consulting the bank.

The most serious aspect of the matter is expressed in the World Bank dissatisfaction with police ranks. Policemen comprise only

15 percent of the police manpower, and 85 percent of the force are officers.

The bank says this is an intentional distortion of salary payments amounting to \$4 million a month. The bank wants a speedy solution through retirement of older officers and their replacement by young policemen from the autonomous areas.

Shihani, Jordan, August 20

DESPITE PLEASANT words before cameras and microphones after the meeting between the (Jordanian) prime minister and a delegation from the Palestinian Authority, knowledgeable officials told *Alifa* there was no significant progress in disputes dividing the two sides.

They said there was Jordanian bitterness over the composition of the Palestinian delegation, which was headed by the Palestinian Minister of Culture Yasser Abed Rabbo. It included senior Palestinians whose recent declarations have not helped close the chasm

in Jordanian-FLO relations that resulted from Israel's decision to continue giving Jordan primary authority over [Jerusalem's] Islamic holy places.

Alifa, Jordan, August 24

THE Jordanian Journalists' Association has warned reporters against contacts with the [Israeli] enemy before the liberation of all occupied Arab lands.

All aspects of the Arab-Israeli peace process were discussed at a meeting of the Council of the Journalists' Association, under its chairman, Salim al-Khatib, and attended by all members.

The association warned members against any cooperation or normalization with the other side.

Nonetheless, the council recognized that journalists who are association members have professional duties, and it therefore showed understanding regarding their attendance at news conferences, meetings and official events.

Alasbail, Jordan, August 23

Saudis worried about stability after Yemeni rebellion

DOUGLAS DAVIS LONDON

THE US has presented Saudi Arabia with a security review that concludes the royal household faces no immediate threat to its hold on power.

According to sources in London, the 200-page review was carried out by specialists at the CIA, the Department of Defense and the State Department, at the request of Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar.

The results were presented to King Fahd last week by former White House chief of staff Thom-

as McLarty, who was accompanied by State Department specialist Robert Pelletreau and President Bill Clinton's Middle East adviser, Martin Indyk.

The report assures Fahd that his regime is in no immediate danger and suggests possible tactics and targets for the Saudi armed forces in the event of insurrection.

The request for the report followed Yemen's recent abortive two-month rebellion against the regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Left-wing secessionists had

seized Aden and were planning to establish a separate "democratic republic" in what had been South Yemen before unification in 1989.

Riyadh, noting that some of Saudi Arabia's cities are within Scud range of Yemen, is reported to have been alarmed at the strength displayed by Yemeni government forces in quashing the rebellion.

While the Saudis have little interest in the emergence of a left-wing mini-state by their border, they are said to fear more the power that a united Yemen can deploy.

Prince Bandar's father, Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan, is

reported to have supported the rebellion in an attempt to assist in the break up of the united state.

Sultan is now the subject of criticism for sponsoring a rebellion that failed and, in the process, for having incurred the wrath of the Yemeni regime.

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DAVID BAR-ILLAN

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The Moussa visit

THERE was something undignified and unseemly about Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's pleading with his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Moussa, to visit Yad Vashem. It is not as if Moussa had to be enlightened about the significance of this memorial, nor of the unique chapter in the annals of mankind it commemorates.

Nor was Moussa unaware that all official visitors to Israel pay homage there. Egypt's late president Anwar Sadat made the gesture on his first visit to Jerusalem, well before the signing of the peace treaty with Israel. Unlike the current Egyptian leadership, Sadat understood that it was not just a matter of protocol; that if he wanted to reach the hearts of Israelis — purportedly what Moussa, too, wants to do — he would have to make the tribute at Yad Vashem a highlight of his visit.

On the surface, a visit to Yad Vashem is an equivalent of laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier by visitors to Egypt or any other country. And, needless to say, no official visitor to any country would dare insult the host government by avoiding such a gesture.

But an appearance at Yad Vashem is also more than that: it is a gesture of solidarity with all humanity against the most monstrous inhumanity ever perpetrated by man. That Moussa initially refused to make such a gesture, and that given when he yielded yesterday to Peres's pleas he belittled the visit (restricted to the children's memorial) as an insignificant stop in his itinerary — says something about him and his government.

Not that it is difficult to guess the political reasons for this refusal. In the modern Arab mythology which passes for history in the Middle East, the Holocaust is to be condemned not for what it did to the Jews, but for its role as catalyst in the creation of Israel. And for all its professed wish to legitimate Israel in the eyes of the Arab world, Egypt — which has a radical Islamic movement to contend with — would obviously prefer not to appear too sympathetic to Jewish suffering and the Jewish state.

That is also the reason President Hosni Mubarak has refused to visit Israel. When the Likud was in power, the excuse was Yitzhak Shamir's "intolerance." But now that Israel is religiously following the Egyptian blueprint for peace, Mubarak's reluctance can only be

interpreted as a policy calculated to placate the fanatics and radicals.

It is in this context that Moussa's meeting with Likud leaders Binyamin Netanyahu, Moshe Katsav, and Eliyahu Ben-Elissar yesterday must be understood. Egypt's drive for an Arab-Israeli peace based on total Israeli withdrawal from all "occupied territories" is animated by the assumption that a settlement will calm the region and weaken the fundamentalists.

And despite his personal abhorrence of Yasser Arafat, Mubarak seems to believe that he is the only Palestinian leader who can achieve such a settlement by establishing a PLO state in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. His success in persuading Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Peres of this has been quite remarkable. But he must also know that peace with only half the people of Israel cannot work. Nor can the permanence of this government be assured — as attested by recent polls, which show that more than half the population would vote for opposition parties, and that in a head-to-head race, Rabin and Netanyahu are almost even.

The meeting, then, was probably intended to sell the Likud on the desirability of peace with Arafat and the PLO. It cannot be an easy task, since Arafat — who has never kept a single agreement with an Arab state — is showing no signs of adhering to his agreement with Israel. (It may be useful to remember on this last day of August that one of the more recent pledges he made was to convene the Palestine National Council during the month of August for the purpose of changing the PLO Covenant.)

It would be futile to tell Egypt that the creation of a PLO state on the 1949 armistice lines is dangerous for Israel. Egypt has its own interests, not Israel's, to worry about. But it may be useful for Moussa to contemplate how effective Arafat can be in stopping the fundamentalists. Surely Mubarak and Moussa are aware of his unwillingness or inability to wage a serious war against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad even now, when it is in his interest to do so. And surely they must realize that if the Palestinians do create a state on Egypt's border, the chances that it would not become a hotbed of radical and fundamentalist activity, and that such activity would not fertilize Egypt's own fundamentalists, are slim indeed.



The day I was banished

STAN GOODENOUGH

SOMETHING strange happened to me at the Temple Mount a few weeks ago.

There, for the first time in all the years I have been in Israel, I was physically assaulted while praying and forced to leave the site.

This state of affairs is in guaranteeing adherence of all religious freedom to enter and worship at the sites special to them. As a Christian, I enjoy the security this policy provides — until I went to pray on the Temple Mount.

Israel's recent decision to give high priority to Moslem king's custodianship "rights" over this mount has moved the most controversial site in the Middle East to center stage.

It is perplexing enough for me, a Gentile, to try and understand how the Jewish authorities could ever have agreed, in 1967, to limit their nation's access to Judaism's most holy site. It is even more difficult to accept that this strong, sovereign Jewish state is now moving to reinforce this situation.

And after the deafening silence greeting this decision, I find its nearly universal acceptance by Jews in Israel and abroad totally incomprehensible.

Have I got this right? You, the Jewish nation, believe you have every right to your homeland here in Israel. Many of you base your claim on your biblical history. For you, no dichotomy exists between biblical history and the more contemporary Jewish history of the last 2,000 years.

Many Gentiles comprehend this Jewish history, as it pertains to the Temple Mount, as follows: Around 3,000 years ago, King Solomon built the first Temple on that hill. The Bible tells us that after he dedicated the Temple, fire fell from heaven and the divine presence filled the sanctuary. (Of special interest to Christians is Solomon's prayer that the God of Israel would also hear the prayers of foreigners who come to pray on the Mount.)

So began the most glorious era your nation ever knew, with Israel's borders secured and extending

further than at any other time in history.

Tragically, your forefathers lost that fear of God. As a result, Israel fell in battle and was exiled. But as you longed for your land and prayed to return, your prophets encouraged you with promises that you would be restored. You

The Temple Mount isn't just off-limits to Jews. Christians can't pray there either

return, build the Second Temple, are defeated in battle again, and go into exile for close to 2,000 long, pain-filled years.

FOR CENTURIES, your communities are scattered among the nations of the world; welcomed by a few, pursued by most. In retrospect, it seems virtually the whole Gentile world was intent on your destruction.

Still, in your synagogues, on the numerous roads of your exile, hounded and hunted by Christian and Moslem, you held fast to the belief that one day you would return to Israel, to Jerusalem, and ultimately to your Temple Mount. You looked forward to the day when God's glory would be restored to you, and Israel would indeed be a light to the nations.

Eventually, your ranks decimated by antisemitic tyranny, the remnant of what should have been one of the mightiest nations in existence began making its way back home. The rest is recent history. In 1948, Jewish dominion was restored to part of the land. Arab wars of aggression led to the extension of that sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, the Golan Heights and Gaza and, finally — on that glorious day — over all Jerusalem.

And then, for some unfathom-

able reason, you stopped. Although the ultimate answer to your centuries of praying and longing was at last within legal reach, you permitted the Temple Mount to remain in Moslem hands.

Instead of opening the way for rebuilding your Temple, you restricted yourselves to 27 years and more of praying at a ruined Herodian Wall. Until today, Jews and Christians are barred by the Islamic Waqf from praying openly on the Mount. And now your political leaders are virtually unopposed in their decision to entrench this status quo.

Modern-day Israel makes much — not without justification — of its policy of guaranteeing free and protected access to all religious holy places in Jerusalem. It is historical fact that, before the restoration of Jewish sovereignty, the sites sacred to Judaism — and Christianity — were anything but unrestricted or protected.

Following the extensive improvement in this situation during the past 27 years, many Christians want Israel to retain sovereignty over the Mount — and over all the sites Christians hold dear, including many of Judaism's. At the very least, should Israel not confine Islamic custodianship on the Temple Mount to the inner wall of its mosques and open the rest of the hill to all Jews and Christians wishing to pray there?

As a Christian who loves the nation who gave me my Bible, my commandments and my Messiah, and who aches to see an end to the suffering of your people, I join with you in longing for the day when true and lasting peace comes to this land.

But how can it come, I wonder, when the people to whom you stretch out your hands in peace remain unrepentant of their hatred of your nation? How can it come, when the man you are willing to recognize as custodian on your most holy site represents the religion which has fueled and fed the war against you?

The writer is editor of the Jerusalem-based publication The Middle East Digest.

Golden, gossamer dreams

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

ONE of the many "sticker wars" pits those proclaiming *Rotzin shalom* ("We want peace") against those declaring *Rotzin shalom aher* ("We want a different peace").

An outsider might conclude that there is a basic disagreement between right and left as to the meaning of the word peace. There isn't. Both sides agree that "peace" is the sort of situation which exists between the US and Canada, or between Norway and Sweden.

It includes open borders, full diplomatic relations, mutual trust on both the personal and state levels, total absence of tension on the security level and the ability to solve problems through nonviolent means.

Everyone agrees that relations between Israel and Egypt since 1979 have resembled this ideal to a greater extent than they did before 1977, but that there is still plenty of room for improvement.

The argument between right and left is first and foremost one of how to move from a situation of total war to one of total peace, given the unique history of Israeli-Arab relations and the special features of the Middle East. But it goes further than that. It includes the nature of the concessions Israel should be willing to make for the sake of peace, and last but not least, the issue of whom Israel should make peace with.

Those who argue "We want a different peace" usually open by claiming: "This isn't peace." But no one from the left argues that the current situation — after the Oslo, Cairo and Washington agreements

— is the peace we've been dreaming about. All the government has done is take the first small steps in what it believes to be the right direction.

"No," says the right. "Talking to the PLO — and especially its current leader — is wrong, as is talking to the

form of the Village Leagues, and failed.

"Clearly, there can be no comprehensive peace in the Middle East without our solving the Palestinian problem, and no way to solve the Palestinian problem without talking to the Palestinians themselves. The PLO was and remains the only address."

"As for the argument that one shouldn't talk about anything more than a permanent autonomy, we [the left] simply don't believe that this is a real option. Do you on the right honestly believe that a permanent autonomy with Israel remaining the sovereign power is really possible? Do you honestly believe the Madrid process would have led to such a solution?"

While the left can sketch out a clear scenario of how today's moves will, in its opinion, lead to peace, the right has failed to sketch out its alternative.

What is this "different peace" it is offering us? A peace in which the Palestinians learn to appreciate the Israeli occupation, the Syrians forgo their claims to the Golan Heights, the Moslem fundamentalists find a chapter in the Koran which commands them to live in peace with the Jewish state? One in which all the Arab states turn into democracies and agree to open embassies in Israel's capital, Jerusalem, without any preconditions?

That isn't peace. It's a pipe dream.

The writer, a political scientist, is a member of the Labor Party Central Committee.

Stupid embargo

PIERRE SALINGER

I am quite amazed that President Clinton has become a supporter of Fidel Castro, and an enemy of the Cuban people, like many of his predecessors. This idea of embargo of Cuba goes back all the way to when I was working with president John F. Kennedy.

It is true that my president made a major mistake early in his administration in the operation of the Bay of Pigs invasion. But unlike many other presidents who have gotten into trouble, he went on television the day after the Bay of Pigs and said: "I am the president of the United States. I made this decision. I made this mistake. I take all responsibility for it."

There was an extraordinary reaction from the American people. Two weeks later, a Gallup poll showed that Kennedy had the support of 82 percent of the American public. I will never forget his calling me into the office and asking, "Did you see that poll, Pierre?" "Yes," I replied.

"I hope I don't have to continue doing stupid things like that to remain popular," Kennedy said.

Kennedy imposed the embargo against Cuba, but late in his administration he understood he had made another mistake. Only five days before he was assassinated, he had a meeting with a French journalist who, he discovered, was

The US is going the wrong way on Cuba

heading for Havana. He gave him a note to give to Fidel Castro calling for negotiations to normalize relations between the two countries. Kennedy understood that if the embargo was not lifted, that if trade was not re-established between the US and Cuba, the Soviet Union would dominate that island.

The journalist was in Castro's office when the phone rang, bringing the news that Kennedy had been killed. If the embargo had been lifted in 1964, Cuba would be a different, and democratic, nation today.

IN 1975, when I held my first and only meeting with Fidel Castro, I learned that the Ford administration understood that US-Cuba relations should be normalized. Accompanying me to the meeting with Castro was journalist Scotty Reston. At one point in our long meeting with Castro, Reston said to him, "Excuse me, sir, but can I change my hat?"

"What kind of a hat do you want to put on?" Castro asked.

Reston said he was bringing a diplomatic message from secretary of state Henry Kissinger. He said that Kissinger wanted to start a dialogue with Cuba to normalize relations. Castro said he was willing to discuss it, but only after the embargo was lifted.

"That's what Kissinger told me you would say," Reston said. They then negotiated a pre-dialogue between the US and Cuban ambassadors in Madrid to start the process. Unfortunately, six weeks later, Cuba was persuaded by the Soviet Union to send 30,000 troops to Angola, something that broke down those talks.

But now, more than 30 years since the embargo was created and almost five years since the Soviet Union crumbled, we are looking at things in a desperately wrong way. We keep saying that the embargo or tougher sanctions will bring down the Castro regime and bring democracy to Cuba. But we simply are forgetting history.

Embargoes and sanctions beef up leaders and ruin the population. We wanted to get rid of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. He is still powerful there as the sanctions continue. But tens of thousands of Iraqis are dying every year from hunger or medical problems.

The only embargo that worked was against South Africa. But you also have to understand history there. First, it was an international, not a US, embargo. But the countries involved, including the US, didn't break diplomatic ties with South Africa. The US and other countries kept a strong dialogue with that country in a continuing effort to persuade its leaders to move toward democracy.

Now we are beefing up Fidel Castro and causing even greater problems for the Cuban people. If Clinton had dropped the embargo early in his administration, we would not now be seeing thousands of Cubans fleeing the country, Castro would have stepped down, and Cuba would have had its first democratic election. Of course, the same thing is happening in Haiti, where we are destroying the population and beefing up the power of the military leadership.

Let's go back to history. Let's not be pals of dictators. Let's be pals of the populations, and by doing this we will persuade them to get rid of the dictators, as they did when we saw the end of the Cold War.

The writer was press secretary to president John F. Kennedy.

(Washington Post)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NORTHERN IRELAND'S FUTURE

Sir, — Your editorial of August 16, "The sting in empire's tail," is a masterpiece. It gives a remarkably concise and reasonable explanation of the events on the streets and the repeated failures of policy, which have brought Northern Ireland to its present sorry state. As an Irish reader, I was greatly encouraged to see such a sound analysis of the situation.

I well remember the feelings of indignation and contempt which rose up in me during a previous visit to Ireland when I saw TV pictures of David Mellor, then minister of state at the British Foreign Office, lecturing the commander of an Israeli army unit for the way he had handled a stone-throwing incident in the territories. The hypocrisy of Mellor's words and actions begged belief.

Although there are hopeful signs now that an end to Ireland's "British problem" may be in sight, I fear that we Irish may have to bear with British hypocrisy and "humbug" a while longer.

During the past 25 years, the political leaders of the Nationalist community have proposed solutions to end the conflict and have attempted to prepare their people for compromise and reconciliation. Their Unionist counterparts, though, have shown no interest whatever in genuine political dialogue or in reaching a fair accommodation with their Nationalist neighbors.

Being in frail health as the result of a stroke suffered two years ago (which resulted in her having to give up the independence of her own home), she has to have medications and care that her health insurance plans (US Medicare and Blue Cross) would not cover if she were outside the US. Due to her age and state of health, she would not be able to obtain any kind of care in Israel without having to pay the full amount of the bills. My mother is certainly not well-

INTERNATIONAL MONEY

Frozen into their time warp, they cry: "No surrender!" Then, behind the scenes, they set about making mischief for those who have had the courage to try to end the violence and so create the conditions for a negotiated settlement. Now, these time-warped Unionists are the very politicians whose loyalty John Major must retain if he and his government are to avoid defeat in the British parliament.

There is clear evidence now that the majority of people in Britain, as well as in Ireland, have little sympathy with the Unionists or their cause. The withdrawal of the British from Ireland and the eventual reunification of the country are indeed seen as being inevitable. However, until the British people elect a government which is in tune with majority opinion on this issue, the hypocrisy will continue and the Irish fire will rage on.

In the meantime, quality analysis such as yours will serve to highlight the pressing need for a solution to the problem. Perhaps, too, the recent appointment of Israel's first full-time ambassador in Dublin will be the catalyst which brings the Irish and Israelis closer together in mutual support of each other. After all, both people share a common struggle as they strive to overcome the legacy left behind by Britain's mismanagement of their countries.

PEADER O'CULLIN

Jerusalem (Cahir, Ireland).

LEARNING ENGLISH

Sir, — My interest has been roused by the controversy over the way to improve the teaching of English in our schools.

Not surprisingly, negotiations have ground to a halt.

Ra'anana. JEFFREY TILLMAN

A PROBLEM OF AGING

Sir, — My mother, bless her, is approaching her 85th birthday and has already beaten the actuarial odds. Her "victory," unfortunately, is to spend the remainder of her golden years alone in a retirement home in Oklahoma City far from her children and grandchildren. I have thought how wonderful it would be to have her here in Israel with my family, and thus able to enjoy her grandchildren as they grow into young womanhood. Unfortunately, the system on both sides of the ocean prevents her from doing this.

This situation, as frustrating as it is, is all too common to many "baby boomers" who have aging parents. We who came to Israel and gave up the life in the "old country" and loved ones there, have to suffer pangs of guilt and sadness for not being able to have our parents with us, forcing them to live their few remaining years in, as Henry David Thoreau once said, "quiet desperation." Surely, some kind of solution should be found for this age-old problem.

MAURICE PICOW

Netanya.

When the national health insurance law comes into effect in a few months, all new immigrants will get coverage. Pensioners, including those from Western countries, will pay a minimum health tax for a state-guaranteed basket of services. — Ed. J.P.

Ramat Hasharon. SARA BLOOM

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Ramat Hasharon. SARA BLOOM

Netanya.

August 31, 1994 The Jerusalem Post
Stupid Embarrassment
PIERRE SALU
I am quite amazed...
shed
you stopped. Al...
opening the way for...
my Israel makes much...
the extensive...
ams
League...
the Ministry of Education and Culture

Man's moral sense: It's all in the brain

BOOKS
EDWARD DOLNICK

DESCARTES' ERROR: Emotion, Reason and the Human Brain, by Antonio R. Damasio (Grosset/Putnam, \$24.95, 320 pp.)

THE MODULAR BRAIN: How New Discoveries in Neuroscience Are Answering Age-Old Questions About Memory, Free Will, Consciousness and Personal Identity, by Richard M. Restak (Scribner, \$22, 199 pp.)

At precisely 4:30 p.m. on a sunny September day in 1848, Phineas Gage made the mistake that ruined his life. Gage, the foreman of a work crew laying railroad track, had just poured gunpowder into a hole in a rock that he needed to blast out of the way. Then someone called his name, and Gage looked over his shoulder for a moment. A moment was all it took. Gage was supposed to put a fuse in the powder, add a layer of sand and then light the fuse. The sand was crucial - it directed the force of the explosion into the rock. But Gage, interrupted in his routine, forgot it. Taking a meter-long, six kilogram iron bar, he tamped the gunpowder down directly.

A whistle shrieked as if a rocket had pierced the sky. Only after several seconds did it become clear what had happened. The iron bar had blasted out of the rock, speared Gage in the left cheek, continued upward through his brain, burst through the top of his skull and landed 30 meters away. Startlingly, Gage lived, and he seemed to thrive. Less than two months after his accident, he was pronounced cured.

But it turned out that the accident had changed him profoundly, and in an utterly unexpected way.

Despite the bar through the brain, Gage remained intelligent and articulate. But he was now profane, undependable, irresponsible, untrustworthy. His intelligence was intact, but his moral sense was gone.

That was a shock. It was one thing to believe that our brains had special regions devoted to speech or vision or other physical processes. It was quite another to think that the brain had a particular region that regulated our sense of ethics and proper conduct.

Gage's extraordinary tale is the launching point for this fascinating book. Antonio Damasio, a prominent neurologist, has audacious goals. He wants to prove, first of all, that the brain does have a moral center.

Studying such questions is tricky, since tampering with people's brains is impossible. Instead, scientists like Damasio rely on "natural experiments" like the unfortunate Gage. It is an odd business, trying to understand the intact brain by studying damaged ones, akin to trying to learn how televisions work by examining ones that happen to have fallen off a delivery truck.

Gage's skull and the bar that pierced it have been on display at a Harvard medical museum for over a century. Damasio enlisted the aid of his wife, Hanna, a well-regarded brain scientist in her own right, who developed a computer-imaging technique that pinpointed the damaged regions of Gage's brain.

This invoking of a brain from its owner's skull was a neat trick, a scientific counterpart to Hamlet's conjuring up poor Yorick. In the meantime, Damasio studied a dozen stroke and tumor patients who had suffered injuries to the same area of the brain as Gage.



Scientists who study the brain rely on 'natural experiments' since tampering with it is impossible.

In every case, the story was the same. Like Gage, these victims of frontal lobe injuries remained perfectly capable intellectually, and like him they no longer seemed to care about the future, or their own well-being, or their dealings with

other people. They could navigate through a maze as well as anyone else but the everyday world had become an unfathomable maze.

Why? In Damasio's view, the crucial clue came from a patient named

Elliot, an intelligent, well-spoken man whose personality had changed abruptly after surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. Formerly well paid and well respected, he quickly lost his job, his wife, his family and all his savings,

and yet he discussed these calamities as if they had befallen someone he barely knew.

"He was calm," Damasio writes. "He was relaxed. He was not hushing inner turmoil. He simply did not have any turmoil to hush."

Experiments drove the point home. While monitoring Elliot with equipment akin to a lie detector, Damasio showed him slides of homes collapsing in earthquakes, houses burning, people trapped in fires and mangled in accidents. Elliot understood the slides intellectually, but they had no impact emotionally.

"His predicament was to know but not to feel," says Damasio, whose claim (which he expounds in sometimes murky prose) is that these strange stories about brain damage have a lesson for us all - too little emotion is as harmful to our thinking as too much.

From childhood, we are told that we should keep a cool head and make our decisions on the basis of logic rather than emotion.

Feelings pollute the clear waters of rationality.

But Elliot's story and Gage's show that this conventional wisdom is profoundly wrong. Feelings and emotions are not distractions from clear thinking, not howls from the dungeon of the subconscious.

On the contrary, they are automated guides that we need if we are to organize our thoughts, Damasio argues. A "gut feeling" that switching jobs would be a bad move, for example, is a red flag from the body to the brain, a hard-to-articulate but nonetheless real warning signal that summarizes a lifetime's experience.

Indeed, *Descartes' Error* (the error is separating mind from body) is a rational argument for taking emotions seriously. The entire book can be taken as an examination of Pascal's remark that "the heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of."

DAMASIO'S FRIEND Phineas Gage also turns up in Richard Restak's *The Modular Brain*, as does Damasio himself. Restak is a clear and experienced writer who has produced several books on the brain. This new one takes a close look at the strange ways the brain stores information.

It is a compelling tale, for the brain's filing system is one that no one could have guessed. We evidently use one bin to store a word's meaning, for example, and a different one to store its sound.

Stroke victims who suffer from "word deafness" can hear doorbells and music and words, and they can read and write and talk, but they cannot understand other people's speech. "Language sounds like the wind in the trees," one patient complained.

Some of the brain's other pigeonholes are even less expected.

One patient could give definitions of inanimate objects, like lighthouses, but not of live animals, like pigs. Shown a picture of a pig, though, he could describe its habits in detail. A person with epilepsy could not answer verbal questions about size ("Is a bee smaller than a house?"), though she could instantly tell which of two objects in a picture was smaller.

This is intriguing material, and Restak moves through it in workmanlike fashion. But he is in a hurry, devoting a few sentences or paragraphs to one bizarre case and then scurrying along to the next.

A writer like Oliver Sacks, who has covered some of the same topics, would devote a chapter to each story and plunge us into a different way of encountering the world.

Along the way, Restak asks deep questions - how do the bits and pieces scattered in various bins combine to create a unified picture? - but he drops them too quickly. It is rare nowadays to wish that a book were longer, but this one should be. (Newsday)

A renegade Jewish history researcher takes on the establishment

Assimilation with other cultures is not so bad for the Jewish people, UCLA Assistant Professor David Myers tells Tom Tugend

ON the academic time chart, 33-year-old David Myers is the new kid on the block. But the soft-spoken assistant professor of modern Jewish history at the University of California, Los Angeles, is not reluctant to challenge a few current shibboleths.

For example, assimilation is not necessarily bad; multiethnic education on campus is a good thing; leaning on antisemitism to define Jewish identity is taking the easy way out; and reports on the upcoming extinction of American Jewry are highly exaggerated.

For starters, Myers speaks of two kinds of assimilation. If assimilation leads to Jewish self-denial and self-hatred, it is obviously a negative force. But if seen as interaction with other cultures and people, assimilation "has been a vital part of the cultural survival and history of the Jewish people," from the beginning of the Diaspora to the present.

To buttress his case, Myers cites two great scholars: Gerson Cohen, who in the mid-Sixties gave a talk on "The Blessings of Assimilation," and Gershom Scholem, who wrote that Judaism cannot be defined by its essence but by its dynamics, its constant evolution vitalized by interaction with other cultures.

Consistent with this viewpoint, Myers welcomes the multicultural eruption of African-American, Latino, Asian-American and women's studies at American universities, and regrets only that Jewish studies do not play a more prominent role in the interethnic forum.

The main reason Jewish studies have been sidelined on campuses lies in the common perception in black, Hispanic and Asian study centers, where they view themselves not just as intellectu-

al or historic disciplines, but as vehicles for social and political empowerment within American society.

"There is no conspiracy to keep Jewish studies out, but there is a widespread impression among minorities that Jews don't need empowerment, and even that they are in the vanguard of the white majority," says Myers.

Partially because of this exclusion, there is a Jewish fear of multiculturalism. But Myers counsels that such fears must be overcome. "I want to see a more active Jewish part in the multicultural debate," he says.

"Jewish history reveals the tensions of a cultural and religious minority struggling to find its place in a majority culture, and it is marked by a constantly evolving balance between assimilation and the need to maintain a cultural identity.

"These struggles are relevant to many minority groups. There is something very special about the Jewish historical experience for non-Jews, as well as for Jews." Among all current multiethnic studies on campuses, Jewish studies claim the longest pedigree. As far back as the early 19th century, Prussian state officials evaluated (but denied) petitions to institute Jewish study courses, and the first Jewish studies on American campuses were initiated in 1935 at Harvard and Columbia.

If Jewish studies are needed to add a distinctive Jewish voice to the multicultural chorus, they are at least equally important in enhancing Jewish literacy on campuses and in the wider community.

Myers sees such Jewish literacy, with appreciation of Hebrew language and literature a key component, as crucial in two areas: the definition of Jewish identity in America, and the realign-



Myers: American Jewry still has a future. (Jewish Journal)

ment of relations between Israel and the Diaspora.

THE HISTORIC pillars of Jewish identity - foremost faith in God, Torah study, and strict adherence to Jewish law - largely crumbled in Western societies with the widespread acceptance of the Jewish Enlightenment (Haskala) in the 18th and 19th centuries.

To fill the void, antisemitism became the central pillar of Jewish identity for many Western Jews," says Myers. "Sigmund Freud said that he never considered himself a Jew until he encountered antisemitism at the university in Vienna. Thinkers from Spinoza to Jean-Paul Sartre ad-

hered to the position that the antisemite defined the Jew. This viewpoint, of course, reached unimaginable consequences in the Holocaust."

The essentially negative reliance on antisemitism as the binding Jewish glue continues even in the US, in part because it requires much less work than to construct a positive Jewish identity through a commitment to Jewish study and to leading a fully Jewish life, Myers maintains.

Jewish literacy in the West may also play an important role in what Myers calls the current "post-Zionist era." With Zionism having essentially fulfilled its mission of creating a viable Jewish state, the real question is whether Israel will now see itself mainly as the center of world Jewry or as a Middle Eastern country.

The latter option has strong roots in the early Zionist tenet of "negating the Exile" and in the Canaanite movement of the 1930s and '40s in Palestine. Its adherents saw their historical kinsmen as the Arabs, Phoenicians and Sumerians of the region, rather than the Jewish people worldwide.

Myers believes that currently "the neo-Canaanite impulse is gaining as Israel becomes more comfortable in the Middle East world." Recent statements by President Ezer Weizman, denying any "legitimacy" to Diaspora communities, seem to validate Myers's concern.

"We have a window of opportunity, which is now closing, to rethink our relationship between Israel and the Diaspora" which can no longer be based on Israel's financial and security needs," he says.

"What can maintain our relationship?" he asks. In his "more romantic moments," he returns to the vision of Hebrew essayist Ahad Ha'am, who viewed a shared appreciation of Hebrew language and literature as the binding tie among all Jews.

AS FOR the future of American Jewry, Myers is not ready to write any obituaries. "There may be fewer but more committed Jews in the future," he says. Myers does not foreclose the possibility of a counter-assimilation or "dissimilation"

movement, similar to the one advocated by Jewish intellectuals in Germany at the turn of the century.

In any case, he concludes, "We Jews are extraordinary in arriving at resilient solutions to our problems."

Myers's field is modern Jewish history, but it is an indicator of his wide-ranging interests that, at the end of a 90-minute interview, he has barely touched on his two specialties: the history of Zionism and its impact on Jewish historiography and the intellectual and cultural history of German and Central European Jews in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The focus is reflected in his forthcoming book *Reinventing the Jewish Past: European Jewish Intellectuals and the Zionist Return to History*, as well as his Ph.D. thesis at Columbia University, "From Zion to the World: Jewish Scholarship and the Zionist Return to History." A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Myers likens his education to that of a peripatetic medieval scholar always searching for the greatest teachers.

The search took him from the University of Scranton to Yale, Tel Aviv University, Harvard and finally Columbia. He joined the UCLA faculty two years ago.

As one side product of his studies and travels, Myers works in six languages - English, Hebrew, French, German, Yiddish and Spanish.

As the youngest member of the newly created Center for Jewish Studies at UCLA, Myers says the center is among the top ones in the US. He visualizes it as becoming a "vital world center," which will be a magnet for visiting scholars and outstanding graduate students, while serving the wider community through lectures and seminars and UCLA's excellent Judaica library.

He also hopes that the Jewish Studies Center will, like almost all the others across the country, be supported by outside contributions, will eventually be funded by UCLA, as are other ethnic study centers.

Myers is married to Nomi Stolzenberg, a law professor at the University of Southern California. They have two small daughters.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

Ministry of Absorption
Ministry of Education and Culture
The Ministry of Absorption and the Ministry of Education and Culture announce the opening of
Hebrew Language ulpan
on Sunday, August 28, 1994 (21 Elul 5754).

New immigrants with a referral from the Ministry of Absorption should apply directly to their assigned ulpan.

New immigrants who have not yet registered and do not have a referral from the Ministry of Absorption should apply to the nearest branch of the Ministry of Absorption to arrange for registration and a referral.

New immigrants who have attended an ulpan in the past without completing the course of studies are also invited to register at an ulpan.

All new immigrants are advised to take advantage of their right to study Hebrew at an ulpan and improve their command of the language, which will help ease their absorption in the country, at work and in society.

With best wishes for a Shana Tova

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1994

Bank Hapoalim posts 9% rise in second quarter net profit

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim yesterday reported a nine percent rise in net profits for the second quarter and a 120% jump for the first half of the year.

Hapoalim is the first of the five largest commercial banks to report a rise in net profits for the second quarter. First International Bank, Bank Discount and United Mizrahi Bank announced a drop in earnings.

Bank Leumi is expected to report its results today.

The bank completed the second quarter with a rise in net profits to NIS 115.89 million from NIS 106.47m. in the corresponding period last year. Net profits for the first half of the year increased to NIS 250.71m. from NIS 114.37m.

The net return on equity for the first six months increased to 10.4% from 8.8% for all of last year.

Hapoalim attributed the improved earnings on its marketing strategy over the past years, which has emphasized attracting new clients in the small and medium-sized business sectors.

In the reported period, the bank significantly increased its share among self-employed and preferred individual customers.

The growth in profit in the first six months was mainly due to a decline in the provision for doubtful debts. Hapoalim's share in the profits of Koor (which are included in the fi-

Mishkan suffers 22% decrease in net earnings

MISHKAN - HAPAOALIM Mortgage Bank reported a 22 percent drop in net profits in the second quarter to NIS 10.34 million from NIS 13.29m. in the corresponding period last year.

In the first six months of the year, net profits fell to NIS 19.8m. from NIS 25.6m. during the same period last year.

Leumi and Co. Investment Bankers reported a NIS 6.6m. net loss in the second quarter, compared with a NIS 3m. net profit during the corresponding period last year.

In the first six months of the year, net losses were NIS 7.2m., after a NIS 4.6m. net profit in the same period last year.

The deterioration in earnings during the first six months was mainly due to losses of NIS 11.2m. from the bank and its subsidiaries' holding of shares traded on the stock exchange.

Bank Leumi Mortgage Bank, a member of the Bank Leumi group, completed the second quarter with a 21% drop in net profits to NIS 5.76m. from NIS 7.27m. in the same period last year.

Net profits fell to NIS 11.31m. in the first half of the year from NIS 13m. in the corresponding period last year. Net return on equity on an annual basis fell to 15.4% from 20.7%.

G.L.B.

for credit granted to finance purchase of mutual fund participation certificates.

Operating and other income rose 3.1% in the first half of the year to NIS 917.1m., while operating income in the second quarter fell to NIS 433.6m. from NIS 434m.

The results reflect a fall capital market activity in the second quarter, erosion in commissions and reduction in the value of securitized by subsidiaries.

Operating and other expenses increased 4.3% in the second quarter to NIS 587.52m.

Hapoalim's share in the profit of unconsolidated subsidiary and affiliated companies rose 8% to NIS 72m. for the first half of the year from NIS 48.7m.

The rise resulted from inclusion of the profits of Koor and an increase in the profits of Investment Company of Bank Hapoalim, Ampal and Delek.

Ampal's share offering in New York during the first quarter contributed NIS 21.6m. to net profit from extraordinary transactions.

Hapoalim's total assets fell to NIS 114.1 billion at the end of the first half of the year from NIS 114.6b. at the end of 1993.

Losses granted to the public increased 3.3% to NIS 62 from the end of last year.

JORDAN is ready to sign a hasty-debated \$55 million deal with Motorola to operate the kingdom's first mobile cellular telephone system together with local company Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Company (JMTSC).

The license contract with JMTSC and its international operator Motorola will probably be signed within a month, Ahmad Nawawi, head of the state-run Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), said yesterday.

The long-awaited deal has created controversy because many Jordanians believe using Motorola will be an indirect breach of the Arab boycott.

Jordan remains committed to the primary boycott - dealing with Israeli companies - despite peace talks, but it has defended the phone deal saying

the contract will be signed with a local firm.

Jordan's army, dependent on US aid, used Motorola to install a costly communications system years ago.

JMTSC and Motorola were among seven companies which submitted offers after the tender was announced in November 1993.

The TCC board of directors chose JMTSC's 38.7 million dollar (\$55.2 million) tender this month, after a technical committee recommended it as the most appropriate technically.

The advanced digital cellular communication system the Jordanians have chosen, known as GSM (group special mobile), was developed as a European standard and is being implemented in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Greece.

The Palestinian Authority has also

chosen GSM as its standard protocol. Only Israel's Communications Ministry has not approved GSM for reasons which are not entirely clear, according to Motorola Vice President Haman Achraf.

From a technical point of view this means the two systems will be incompatible both technologically and in terms of frequencies.

Asked whether or not the Jordanian deal will have any impact on Motorola's TelePhone service in Israel, Achraf said only "it might be that in the long run it will influence service" but was careful to point out that his division is not involved in the Jordanian activity.

"The cellular operations in Jordan are being handled directly by Motorola USA and not through Motorola Israel," he said.

TAAS to get \$45m. in guarantees

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved an additional \$45 million in government guarantees for TAAS-Israel Industries so it can finance a project already in hand for which it has been unable to obtain a commercial loan.

The Treasury, which requested the guarantees, said the order TAAS received is worth \$100m. Because of its financial difficulties, however, no bank was willing to lend it the money it needs to buy raw materials.

The guarantees - for loans whose terms have not yet been determined - were approved 3-0, over the objec-

three-year recovery plan agreed upon in 1992, which has proven insufficient to return the company to profitability, the Treasury said.

Gal said he has asked the company to report to the committee on the plan once it is finished.

Meanwhile, TAAS director general Dan Shomron presented the committee with several statistics to show that the company is moving in the right direction.

Sales have remained stable at about \$500m. a year, but the work force has decreased from 12,000 to 5,000, he said.

Land sought for farmers losing property to Trans-Israel Highway

EVELYN GORDON

THE Israel Lands Administration is beginning to search for alternative plots to offer those whose lands are confiscated to build the Trans-Israel Highway, director-general Uzi Wexler told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday.

Wexler's comment was in response to a question by committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor), who is advocating this solution. Finance Committee Avraham Shohat said on Monday that he supported the idea.

Gal asked that Wexler try to find plots as close to the original lands as possible.

Gal also said he was convinced the compensation given for the lands expropriated to build the highway would have to be much higher than it has been in the past.

The trick, he said, would be to find a compromise which prevented confrontation with the farmers without being excessively generous.

Gal's remarks on the level of compensation were based on a presentation by Professor Rachelle Alterman of the Technion, an expert in urban planning and land law. Alterman gave the committee a survey of expropriation law throughout the industrialized world.

Only one country - Sweden - has a law similar to the Treasury's proposed bill, she said, in that it allows the government to take over the land before compensation has been agreed upon.

In practice, however, 99% of expropriations in Sweden are done by negotiation, she said.

Furthermore, Sweden is now under pressure from the European Community to fix this law, because of its infringement on individual rights, she said.

At the other extreme is Japan, which, although expropriation laws

are on the books, almost never does so in practice, Alterman said.

"From a political and social standpoint, it is simply not possible to obtain land for public use via expropriation [in Japan]," she said. "This is why land comprises 95% of the cost of all public projects. And the total cost of these projects is about four times what it would be here."

Japan's problem, she said, should serve as a "red light" for Israel, which is approaching the same mindset.

For years, Alterman explained, land could be expropriated more cheaply and more easily in Israel than in any other country - partly because current expropriation law permits 25% of the land to be taken without compensation and partly because for years, there was no expectation that agricultural land would ever be diverted to any other use.

However, she said, the government's recent decision to use agricultural lands for construction has created much higher expectations among the farmers - because land approved for construction is worth some 30 times what agricultural land is worth.

"In order to avoid the Japanese situation, we need to recognize the new reality [and give] more realistic compensation," she said.

Israel should be somewhere between continental Europe and the US in terms of compensation, Alterman recommended.

In continental Europe, compensation is based on what the land would be worth if it were used for agriculture.

This is sometimes true in Britain as well, though at other times Britain compensates based on what the land would be worth if a given building project were approved. The US, however, compensates on the basis of the "highest and best use" for the land - the most generous policy in the world, Alterman said.

Alterman also advocated introducing a system used in France, whereby if anyone stands to lose more than 5% of his land due to expropriation, all the land in the region is repatriated to prevent this from happening.

This means that no one is hurt too badly by any public project, and therefore cases opposition, she said.



Federation of Egyptian Industries president Mohammed Farid Khamis (left), who is leading a delegation on a visit here, discusses business opportunities with Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish.

Exports, local sales up at kibbutz industries

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KIBBUTZ industries' exports grew 10 percent in the first six months of the year and domestic market sales rose 7% from the corresponding period in 1993, the Kibbutz Industries Association chairman said yesterday.

Micha Heretz told a press conference, however, that he is concerned over future business performance, because the Treasury's plans to reduce grants and benefits in the capital investment law and a recent rise in the cost of raw materials are likely to harm profits.

Heretz said grants are a major instrument for kibbutz industries' growth and expansion.

"Seventy percent of the factories are situated in Development Zone A and B, and for them the implications of a reduction in grants is very significant," said Heretz.

The proposed change would lower subsidies to businesses in Development Zone A to 30% from 38% and in Development Zone B to 20% from 25%.

He said kibbutzim's earnings from tourism and services should grow in the future at the expense of agriculture.

Ten kibbutz companies have submitted prospectuses to raise capital on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, but are waiting for the capital market to recover before going ahead with them, Heretz said.

Ten companies are already traded on the exchange.

Heretz said there is a growing tendency for private investors to enter into strategic agreements with kibbutz companies.

Twenty-five kibbutz companies have already signed agreements with strategic partners.

Israel Chemicals announces 102% increase in net profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL Chemicals announced a 102 percent rise in second quarter net profits to NIS 11.3 million from NIS 5.8m. during the same period last year.

Second quarter revenues rose to NIS 304m. from NIS 257.5m., while earnings per share went up to NIS 0.010 from NIS 0.005.

The company said the rise was part of an improvement in the world fertilizer market that began earlier in the year but was not reflected in first quarter results.

Clal (Israel) suffered a 90% fall in second quarter net profits to NIS 3.9 million from NIS 39.6m. during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 1.1 billion from NIS 732.6m., while earnings per share decreased to NIS 0.12 from NIS 1.33.

The drop in profits was attributed to a NIS 4.2m. loss on company portfolio, as compared with a NIS 6.3m. gain in the second quarter last year.

Delta Galil suffered NIS 1.7m. in net losses in the second quarter, compared with a NIS 4m. net profit during the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 162.8m. from NIS 136.5m. for the same period last year.

The decline in profits was blamed on lower sale prices and increased costs.

Joel Jerusalem Oil Exploration suffered a second quarter net loss of NIS 13.8m., compared with a NIS 7.8m. net profit during the same period last year.

Revenues fell to NIS 5.7m. from NIS 7.6m. for the same period last year.

Subsidiary Isrameco reported a net loss of \$877,850, compared with a net profit of \$323,937. Revenues increased to \$594,758 from \$292,356.

The Israel Land Development Corporation reported a net loss of

NIS 1.1m. during the second quarter, compared with a net profit of NIS 5m. for the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 161.8m. from NIS 150.7m.

Through its subsidiary companies, ILD deals in real estate, communications, hotels, insurance and emergency cardiac and asthma services.

Zion Insurance reported a decrease in second quarter net profits to NIS 444,000 from NIS 2.29m. during the same period last year.

Net profits in the first six months of the year almost doubled to NIS 2m. from NIS 1.16m. in the first half of 1993.

Profits from life insurance business rose 16% in the second quarter to NIS 4.58m.

In the first half, profits from life insurance business fell to NIS 7.84m. from NIS 8.96m.

Sahar Israel Insurance Co. completed the second quarter with a NIS 300,000 net loss, compared with a NIS 400,000 net profit in the corresponding period last year.

The company posted a drop in net profit for the first half of the year to NIS 200,000 from NIS 1.8m. in the same period last year.

The drop in profitability was mainly due to a fall in income from investments after the drop in the prices of tradeable securities on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

In the second quarter, income from investments fell to NIS 600,000 from NIS 3m. in the corresponding period last year.

Sano-Bruno reported a decline in net profits to NIS 783,000 in the second quarter from NIS 2.4m. during the same period last year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Yisrael Zamir new Tadiran general manager: Yisrael Zamir was yesterday nominated to be Tadiran general manager. Currently serving as chairman of Tadiran's board of directors, Zamir had served as general-director until January of this year, engineering Tadiran's rise to becoming Koor's most profitable subsidiary. He replaces retiring general-director Gurion Melitzer.

Peled approved as IEC head: The government's independent appointments panel, headed by retired judge Mordechai Ben-Dror, approved yesterday the appointment of Rafi Peled as managing director of the Israel Electric Corporation.

Additional funds approved for roadwork: The finance and housing ministers yesterday approved NIS 130 million in additional funds to the Public Works Commission (PWC) to speed up the completion of roadwork throughout the country. PWC's total budget for this year, including the increase, will reach NIS 1.26 billion, NIS 55m. of which will come out of next year's budget.

WORLD BRIEFS

Lockheed, Martin Marietta announce merger deal: Lockheed Corp. and Martin Marietta Corp. announced yesterday they have agreed to merge in a deal worth more than \$10 billion, one of the biggest defense mergers in history.

The stock-swap merger reflects continuing industry consolidation, which has been driven by sharp reductions in defense spending. Lockheed Martin, as the new company will be called, will have about \$23b. in annual sales and employ approximately 170,000 people.

The merger is subject to regulatory approval as well as acceptance by shareholders. The companies said the deal is expected to close in early 1995.

Euro Disney stocks plunge: Euro Disney stocks plunged yesterday for a third straight day, forcing a mandatory 15-minute suspension as the share price tumbled to less than \$2. A sudden rise hours later forced a second brief suspension. But the saw-sawing failed to lift share prices from the doldrums.

Since Thursday, Euro Disney shares have lost around 26 percent, falling through the critical floor of 10 francs (\$1.85) - the price at which nearly 600 million new shares were created during a recent rights issue aimed at helping to save the venture.

Reforms open up software market in India: Reforms sweeping India's banking industry have opened up a huge market for software involving foreign technology, computer analysts said yesterday. The new private-sector banks, which India allowed last year after reversing a 24-year-old policy, opted for the most modern software in a bid to compete with foreign banks.

Microsoft appears to win trademark approval for Windows: Microsoft Corp. apparently has succeeded in its long battle to win trademark protection for its widely used Windows operating software for personal computers, a federal official said. The ruling has raised some eyebrows because the US Patent and Trademark Office originally refused Microsoft's 1990 application, ruling that Windows was a "generic" description of a graphical user interface.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

| Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (30.8.94) | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Currency (deposit term) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS | |
| U.S. dollar (\$50,000) | 4.125 | 4.500 | 5.000 | |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 3.875 | 4.375 | 4.875 | |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 4.000 | 4.500 | 4.875 | |
| Yen (10 million yen) | 3.875 | 3.875 | 3.875 | |
| | 0.750 | 0.750 | 1.125 | |
| Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (30.8.94) | | | | |
| Currency | Buy | Sell | Banknotes | Rep. Rate |
| U.S. dollar | 3.3420 | 3.3520 | 3.3500 | 3.3500 |
| German mark | 3.0170 | 3.0270 | 3.0200 | 3.0200 |
| French franc | 4.8225 | 4.8325 | 4.8300 | 4.8300 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| British pound | 1.7021 | 1.7121 | 1.7100 | 1.7100 |
| Swiss franc | 2.2825 | 2.2925 | 2.2900 | 2.2900 |
| Scandinavian krona | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Danish krone | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Irish pound | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Portuguese escudo | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Australian dollar | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| S. African rand | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Italian lire (1000) | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 0.0024 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 | 0.0025 |

* Rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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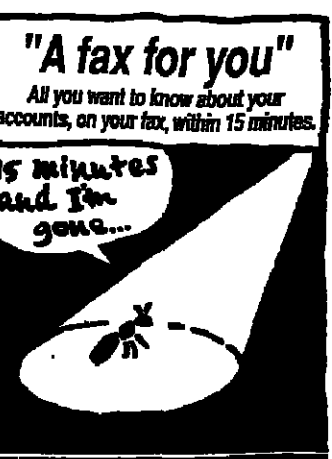
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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Philippine mine kills 79

Nazario Vasquez, president of the FNOC Energy Corp., which operates the mine, earlier said some of the missing workers may have been just absent from work.

"We are crossing our fingers that all of them are still alive," he told reporters.

Yesterday afternoon, company spokesman Leonardo Ole said 10 bodies had been located. Ole could not be reached to comment on Real's report.

Vasquez said about 170 miners were working at the time of the accident.

He said the workers, who were mining at about 150 meters under ground, hit a pocket of water.

He said the rush of water was accompanied by methane gas, which exploded.

But Mayor Cecilio Tura, questioning miners, said the accident was caused by a dynamic explosion that mixed with poisonous gases.

"I interviewed the miners and they said there was a blast of dynamite," Tura said in a radio interview.

"There was an open fire and methane gas, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide mixed," Tura said rescuers could not enter the tunnels because the methane gas had already collapsed.

Ole denied Tura's claim that the explosion was caused by a dynamite and that the tunnel had collapsed.

Methane gas, which is odorless and colorless, is present in oil deposits and safety officers are trained to monitor its level at signal miners of danger.

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A cease-fire

Fighters, inflamed deep inside the IRA olive branch may be pushing the province back to sectarian battles of the 1960s.

When the IRA tried to end a 19-year-old ceasefire, it was a move to promote dialogue with the Unionist death squads and a campaign of violence against Nationalists.

"Rather than being a ceasefire, it is a recipe for the IRA to draw support from the Catholic community from the IRA draws support.

The talk of civil war was by hard-line Unionist John Fawcett, who said the IRA never had its war without a ceasefire from Britain that would have been sacrificed to the IRA's political expediency.

"If he (Adams) comes out of a ceasefire, then the IRA will have been sacrificed to the IRA's political expediency."

He said.

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French zone

we hope that this peaceful atmosphere will continue," Khan said, adding that they were trucking back slowly into the zone.

But more than one million Rwandese still living miserably in refugee camps and other neighboring countries.

Up to 500,000 mostly Tutsi were massacred by troops of the Rwandan government after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in an airplane crash. Opposition Hutus were.

UN conference

Minister Tansu Ciller said next week, Bangladesh Minister Khawaja Ziauddin will be busy with his schedule as reason for attending.

In Cairo, the Administrative Council of the UN Conference on the Environment and Development, which would be held in Geneva, was announced.

"Egypt is an Islamic country which should not allow the UN Conference to be held here," said Abdel-Halim Mansour, Egyptian customs.

The decision, read by Abdel-Aziz Homaidan, was announced yesterday.

The decision was made by the Egyptian government, which said it would not allow the UN Conference to be held in Egypt.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

| Key Representative Rates | | |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|
| US dollar | NIS 3.0400 | -0.10% |
| Starling | NIS 4.8617 | -0.01% |
| Mark | NIS 1.8219 | -0.43% |

| New York market indexes | | |
|-------------------------|----------|--------|
| DJ Industrial | 10,973.4 | +0.18% |
| DJ 30 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 100 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 200 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 1000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 1500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 2000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 2500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 3000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 3500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 4000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 4500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 5000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 5500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 6000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 6500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 7000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 7500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 8000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 8500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 9000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 9500 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |
| DJ 10000 | 1,034.34 | +0.12% |

| Other stock market indexes | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|
| FTSE 100 | 2,949.9 | +0.15% |
| Nikkei 225 | 15,124.1 | +0.12% |
| DAX | 1,821.9 | -0.43% |
| Hong Kong | 11,212.5 | +0.12% |
| Shanghai | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| London | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Paris | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Frankfurt | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Zurich | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Geneva | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Basel | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Vienna | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Budapest | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Warsaw | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Prague | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Bratislava | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Belgrade | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Sofia | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Bucharest | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
| Cluj | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
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| Oradea | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
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| Brasov | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |
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| Mehadia | 1,121.2 | +0.12% |

| Israeli stocks in NY | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Am. Int'l | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Tel. | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Bank | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Ind. | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Comm. | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Energy | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Health | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Tech | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Media | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Retail | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Food | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Auto | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Travel | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Real Estate | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Insurance | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Utilities | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Telecom | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Conglomerate | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Diversified | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. International | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Global | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Multi-Sector | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. Broad Market | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Stocks | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Bonds | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Commodities | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Futures | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Options | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Derivatives | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Securities | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Financials | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Corporates | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Equities | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Fixed Income | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Money Markets | 44.25 | +0.12% |
| Am. All Debt | 44.25 | +0.12% |
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Smashnova advances at US Open

Israeli star upsets 13th-seeded McNeil, Graf also moves ahead

NEW YORK (AP) — What a difference a Grand Slam makes.

At Wimbledon in June, veteran Lori McNeil pulled off the biggest upset of the year when she ousted defending champion Steffi Graf in a first-round match.

At the US Open yesterday, Graf, the defending champion, sped past her opening-round foe, while McNeil, a Wimbledon semifinalist, fell to Israeli's Anna Smashnova.

Smashnova, who had to go through qualifying to gain the main draw at the Australian Open in January, shocked McNeil, who is 13th-seeded, 6-2, 6-4.

Graf, top-seeded in the 128-player women's field, but troubled by an aching back, needed only 45 minutes to oust 19-year-old Californian Anne Kiefer, making her debut at the National Tennis Center, 6-2, 6-1.

Fifth-seeded Kimiko Date easily won her first-round match, beating fellow Japanese Rika Hiraki 6-0, 6-2. No. 8 Gabriela Sabatini, the 1990 US Open winner, defeated Larisa Neiland 6-0, 6-1 and No. 14 Anke Huber stopped Irina Spilaea of Romania 6-4, 6-2.

Stefan Edberg, twice the men's champion and seeded fifth, brushed past his first-round opponent, defeating fellow Swede Lars Jonsson 7-5, 6-1, 6-1. Another former champion from Sweden, Mats Wilander, fell to Frenchman Guy Forget 7-5, 6-1, 6-4.

Graf said her back began hurting her during a tournament in San Diego, "and it got real bad during Montreal. The pain was very strong there."

She said only rest will cure her problem, but refused to say when she would be able to do that with her busy schedule.

Sabatini said her game is better now than when she won this tournament, but notes she must be "aggressive, attacking all the time, especially today with the way that the players are playing. They're hitting the ball so hard, and if I don't hit the ball hard, I'm not going to win."

It wasn't that long ago, 1989 to be exact, when Graf and fellow German Boris Becker sat atop the world of tennis, having won both Wimbledon and the US Open. Only Graf has a chance to win here this year.

Becker could only come up with a long list of excuses after losing to Richey Reneberg, a player more accustomed to success in doubles than singles.



NATIONAL HERO — Anna Smashnova enjoyed a stunning upset against Lori McNeil yesterday.

customed to success in doubles than singles.

On opening day, which didn't end until just after midnight yesterday, Becker and several other seeded players were knocked out of the year's final Grand Slam tournament.

"They made the court extremely

slow this year, especially center court and the Grandstand, and they changed the balls," Becker moaned. "They made them very heavy and very soft, and that is very bad for my game."

What was worst for his game was the play of Reneberg.

"Basically the fifth set was the

best set I've ever played in my life," Reneberg said after upsetting the seventh-seeded Becker 6-1, 6-4, 4-6, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5).

It took six match points, but Reneberg finally prevailed, the winning point coming on a smash that sent the winner's arms skyward and Becker packing.

Schumacher loses appeal

PARIS (AP) — Formula One leader Michael Schumacher will miss the next two Grand Prix races after losing an appeal yesterday of his suspension and disqualification following the British Grand Prix.

The German had ignored a black flag during the race July 10 signaling him to come out of the race after failing to heed a stop-and-go penalty. He finished second.

The International Automobile Federation's court of appeals upheld his disqualification and the original punishment of being suspended for two races handed down by the federation July 26.

The suspension weakens but does not end Schumacher's chances for the world title. Driving for Benetton-Ford, he has won seven of the season's first 11 races, but will now miss the Italian Grand Prix on September 11 and the Portuguese race two weeks later.

Schumacher will return at the European Grand Prix in Jerez, Spain, on October 16, which will coincide with the return of British driver Nigel Mansell after a two-year hiatus in IndyCars.

Mansell, the 1992 Formula One champion, will drive the final three races of the season for Williams-Renault. Schumacher seemed on his way to the title this year before the suspension. He has 76 points in the drivers' standings, trailed by Britain's Damon Hill with 55. Five races are left, with a victory counting 10 points.

Hill, who drives for Williams-Renault, thinks he can close the gap.

"I think I have a very healthy chance of winning these

races, but there is no room for anything to go wrong. If I am to win the championship, I have to win these two races," Hill said.

"It is a tall order in any circumstances, but my motivation is higher than ever, and the team are redoubling their efforts to make full use of this opportunity," Hill said in Britain.

Racing authorities penalized Schumacher on July 26, stripping the six points he'd won for the second-place British finish and suspending him for two races.

But he appealed and was allowed to compete in three races since. He failed to finish in his native Germany, but won in Hungary.

Schumacher finished first Sunday in Belgium but was disqualified when stewards said a mandatory wooden plank under his car, aimed at slowing down drivers, was too thin and gave him an unfair edge.

The crude wooden board was introduced into the high-tech sport halfway through the season following the deaths of Ayrton Senna and Austrian Roland Ratzenberger at the San Marino Grand Prix in May.

In addition to suspending Schumacher, the federation had fined Benetton \$500,000. Benetton withdrew its appeal, the federation announced yesterday, and will pay the fine.

Benetton-Ford is also under investigation for an alleged refueling infringement during the German Grand Prix involving its other driver, Jos Verstappen of the Netherlands. A hearing is set for September 7.

Villa beats Coventry

LONDON (Reuters) — Dwight Yorke scored in only the third minute and that was all Aston Villa needed for a 1-0 victory over struggling Coventry in the Premier League on Monday.

The triumph was Villa's first after three in their three previous matches and it boosted them into a cluster of five clubs with six points, though their goal difference leaves them in ninth place.

Yorke headed home after just two minutes and 33 seconds following a bad blunder of a Villa cross by the Coventry defense.

"Obviously we needed it," Villa manager Ron Atkinson said of the win.

Coventry remained in the depths of the division with only one point from four matches. Only Leicester, without a point from three games, is below them.

The culprit on the goal was midfielder David Rennie. He totally misfielded Steve Staunton's hopeful low pass and, harassed by Dean Saunders, eventually played into the path of Andy Townsend, who crossed accurately for Yorke to head in.

Jackson excels in Berlin Grand Prix

BERLIN (Reuters) — Britain's high hurdler Colin Jackson secured a share of the biggest jackpot in athletics yesterday with another harmonious display of technique, power and pace at the Berlin Grand Prix meeting.

The world, European and Commonwealth champion won the 110 hurdles in 13.02 seconds to continue his winning streak in the "Golden Four" series of meetings in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin.

The 27-year-old Welshman, now unbeaten in 14 races this season, was guaranteed half of the jackpot of 20 one-kilo gold bars after his four triumphs in the series.

The prize, worth around \$250,000, ensured this was Jackson's biggest payday of his career so far.

American world long jump record holder Mike Powell, the only other athlete undefeated in the most lucrative series in the sport, was the sole person who could stop Jackson walking away with the total jackpot. Powell's event was due to finish later in the evening.

Jackson made financial sacrifices last year when he dropped out of the richest meeting in athletics in Zurich

to make sure of being fit for the world championships.

But despite problems of jetlag after his victory at the Commonwealth Games in Canada last week, he made sure of his money yesterday with another smooth performance in coolish conditions which were far from perfect for sprinting.

Jackson was pushed in the early part of the race by American Mark Crear on his inside. But he took control after the fifth hurdle to dip ahead of Crear who clocked 13.07 in second.

Olympic and world 100 meters champion Linford Christie suffered his second defeat in three days when he finished third in a photo-finish behind American Olympic bronze medalist Dennis Mitchell and his compatriot Jon Drummond.

Christie, beaten by Drummond in Italy on Sunday, was sluggish out of his blocks and could not battle back in the second half of the race as Mitchell won in 10.00 seconds.

The three athletes crossed the line together, with Drummond taking second in 10.01 and Christie clocking 10.02.

Owners willing to cancel World Series

NEW YORK (AP) — October without the World Series? Major League Baseball owners really are willing to cancel it, their chief negotiator said.

"I think the owners want to do everything humanly possible to save the postseason," Richard Ravitch said Monday during a telephone conference call with reporters.

"But they also want to save baseball for the future, and that is a very, very high priority."

The strike, which began August 12, canceled nine more games Monday, raising the total to 232. No new bargaining sessions are scheduled.

"So far as I know, there isn't anything going on," union head Donald Fehr said. "They know we're willing to get together if there's a purpose."

With 10 percent of the season canceled, federal mediators said they will meet separately today with baseball

players and owners.

Fehr, convinced that owners have a preset timetable, said the union considered having players return to the field for the remainder of the regular season, collect the rest of their salaries and then strike the postseason. Players are paid their entire salaries by the time the regular season ends.

Ravitch said a stumbling block to the negotiations is the players' belief that owners will abandon their salary cap proposal.

Ravitch still said he had trouble believing the stoppage will continue into next season. Fehr has said the strike will continue "as long as it takes" to shelve the salary cap.

Ravitch, whose \$750,000-a-year contract expires December 31, said he would stay into next year but wouldn't promise to remain if the walkout becomes protracted.

Labor dispute may block opening of hockey camps

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball is not the only American sport threatened by labor problems. A dispute between National Hockey League players and owners may shut down training camps as soon as next Monday.

The Dallas Morning News newspaper quoted an unidentified source yesterday as saying that commissioner Gary Bettman will order a league-wide lockout beginning next Monday.

"There will be no hockey whatsoever without an agreement," the source told the Morning News. "Management's position is that it makes no sense to start, then stop and then start again."

"A strike or lockout is a distinct possibility," Mike Gartner, president of the NHL Players Association, said Monday. "I hope neither one of them happens, but they are possibilities when both sides can't come to an agreement."

The Toronto Maple Leafs forward thinks a salary cap is a big enough issue to force hockey into a similar circumstance as baseball — a work stoppage.

Salaries are the main issue. Owners are seeking to tie salaries to team revenues. Players hope to have salaries set by the open market. The players' ultimate goal is free agency, which permits top players to negotiate individual contracts, sometimes for millions of dollars. Owners have rejected free agency in the past.

This time, both sides hope to avoid the problems of two seasons ago when the players staged a 10-day strike, the first in league history.

"We're trying to go through all the different scenarios that can happen and we've been trying to set up some meetings," Gartner said.

Looming large is a series of sanctions that Bettman threatened to impose Thursday, when the Winnipeg Jets are scheduled to become the first team to open training camp. Bettman has said if a new agreement is not worked out by then, he will eliminate meal allowances, force players to pay their way to training camp and reduce rosters, among other things.

"He has not rolled back a lot of things — he's rolled back everything," Gartner said.

Players have been without a contract since September 15. They last met with owners for three hours last week, but have no formal meetings scheduled at this point.

Most teams are scheduled to open camp this weekend.

Galil unable to recapture past glories

HAPOEL Galil Elyon, which only two years ago was in the National League basketball crown, has been eliminated from the first round of the State Cup by the second league's Maccabi Hadera.

It is a severe blow to the morale of the club, and especially to coach Pini Gershon who took Galil to its historic win two seasons ago. Gershon spent most of last year at Maccabi Rishon LeZion and Galil re-hired him with a view to regaining the team's glory.

Hadera last week beat Galil by eight points (75-67) in the first game of the round. On Sunday night Galil

JOEL GORDIN

only won the return game by six points (81-75). With less than 10 minutes to go, Galil was leading by 17 points, but made a succession of errors. Thus Hadera was the overall round winner by two points.

Another national league team, Bnei Ramat Gan, which is fielding a youth team this year, was eliminated by Bnei Migdal Haemek.

All the other national league teams go through to the best-of-16 round, to be played September 18 and October 16. They are: Maccabi Haifa (which

beat the second division's Hapoel Haifa), Hapoel Holon (Hapoel Afula), Hapoel Eilat (Hapoel Nahariya), Maccabi Rishon LeZion (Maccabi Netanya), Bnei Herzliya (Maccabi Netanya), Hapoel Giv'atayim (Maccabi Rehovot) and Maccabi Jerusalem (Kiryat Motzkin).

Maccabi Ramat Gan (Maccabi Darom), Maccabi Tel Aviv, Hapoel Tel Aviv, Hapoel Jerusalem and Hapoel Givat had byes.

Four second division teams have made it to the second round: Bnei Migdal Haemek, Hapoel Zefat, Maccabi Bet Yam and Hod Hasharon.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Vanessa Phillips Women's Soccer

Vanessa Phillips, a professional soccer player, was named the best player in the world by the International Women's Football Federation (IWFF) in 1993.

The IWFF is a global organization that promotes women's soccer and organizes international tournaments.

Phillips, who plays for the England national team, was also named the best player in the world by the IWFF in 1992.

Other players who have been named the best player in the world by the IWFF include Wendie Renard of France and Fran Kirby of England.

Phillips' success has helped to raise the profile of women's soccer and has inspired many young girls to take up the sport.

She is now a role model for many young women and is working to promote the sport further.

Phillips is also a member of the IWFF's Hall of Fame and is considered one of the greatest players in the history of the sport.

Her achievements have helped to bring women's soccer into the mainstream and has paved the way for future generations of players.

Phillips' legacy will live on for many years to come and she is a true inspiration to all who love the game.

She is a true champion and her achievements are a testament to her hard work and dedication to the sport.

Phillips is a true legend and her achievements are a source of pride for all who follow the sport.

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Talks with teachers go down to the wire

BATSHEVA TSUR

AS 1.5 million pupils from kindergarten to high school prepare their satchels for the first day of school tomorrow, the country's 88,500 teachers have not yet agreed to begin teaching.

Late last night, representatives of the Treasury and the Education Ministry were still trying to hammer out a formula that would satisfy all sides. "By early [this] morning, I expect we will reach agreement," ministry director-general Shimon Shoshani said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said yesterday that there had been a dramatic drop in the number of failures in the three-unit English and mathematics exams for the matriculation exams in 1994, without lowering standards.

Describing this as an indication that his policy to get more pupils to finish high school was bearing fruit, Rubinstein stressed that today's most jobs, including the civil service, are closed to those who do not have a Bachelor's degree.

Rubinstein told a Jerusalem press conference that in three-unit Mathematics there were 22.6% failures this summer, as compared with 26.2% in 1993 and 31.5% on an average in the previous five years. The improvement was even more marked in three-unit English, where failures dropped to 29.8% this year (39.8% in 1993) as compared with 52% on an average over the previous five years.

Failure to pass the English and Mathematics exams has been among the greatest stumbling blocks to university entrance.

The minister also noted that an additional 10,500 places

would be available during this coming academic year at universities and colleges. "We are working on pushing weak students along a continuum that starts in kindergarten and ends in the universities," Rubinstein said.

Shoshani added that "this is the first year that ministry budgets are going to improve teachers' salaries and towards teachers' advanced training programs." He added that more than 14,000 computers had been placed in schools and that 80,000 additional teaching hours - many of them in the weaker Arab-speaking sector - had been added.

The ministry has allocated NIS 51m. for special education institutions, Shoshani said.

Road safety will become an important part of the curriculum for all schoolchildren, from grade 1 through high school, Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldmann said. He said they would study road safety measures one hour a week, and that driving theory would be taught to 11th-graders who would be able to take their driving test when they turned 17½.

Goldmann said special efforts were being made to absorb immigrant teachers in the school system. There are 1,000 regularly employed teachers on the ministry's payroll and another 4,000 employed on a part-time basis, he said.

The average Jewish family in Israel will spend about NIS 1,800 per child on "extras" during the coming academic year, according to a survey by the Geocarography Institute for Analysis. Of this, some NIS 400 will go towards books and notebooks, and another NIS 400 towards extracurricular activities, the researchers said.



The air force yesterday welcomed its newest addition to the attack helicopter fleet - 10 Blackhawk attack/cargo helicopters. The decision to purchase the Blackhawk, IAF nicknamed 'Owl,' was made over a decade ago. Manufactured in the late 1970s, the Blackhawk is an advanced attack helicopter capable of transporting soldiers and performing medical evacuation operations. (IDF Spokesman)

Report: Health Ministry lab workers have double the average cancer rate

JUDY SIEGEL

CANCER is twice as common among staffers at the Health Ministry's Institute for Control and Standards of Medical Materials in the general population, according to research conducted for the ministry.

But the epidemiology expert who investigated the workers' illnesses told the ministry "there is no clear proof of a causal relationship between the illnesses and their occupation."

Prof. Baruch Medan, who conducted the research, told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that there was "no justification for closing the lab down" on the basis of his findings, yet it is impossible to know from the survey whether the seemingly higher rate of cancer among workers was due to their job.

"The average age of the staffers is 50; nearly all of the cancers were gynecological - breast, ovarian and uterine, which are more common among the better educated and older women who characterize the staff," he said.

After receiving the report late last week, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh decided to ask for NIS 1 million for

Modan to carry out a nationwide comparative survey of laboratory workers throughout the country - in government, Kupat Holim and other hospitals and other medical labs.

The ministry last night issued a two-page statement describing the report written by Medan, a former ministry director-general who is today a senior epidemiologist at Sheba Hospital. According to ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai, the summary "fully expresses" the content of the report, thus releasing the document to the press as "unnecessary." She added that "Sneh himself" decided not to distribute the report to the media. The lab workers' union did, however, receive it.

Modan was asked early this year to investigate the complaints of staffers at the Jerusalem Institute - a facility in the rundown Russian Compound in Jerusalem - which conducts tests on drugs and medical materials before they are approved for marketing here. In the interim, the staffers, who work intensively with various chemicals, were given a shorter workday (five

instead of seven hours), and this change has been made permanent. The investigation followed complaints from workers about a "large number" of cancer cases among the mostly female staff.

Modan interviewed by phone (in Israel and abroad) 93 percent of the 170 permanent staffers who worked there since it was founded in 1949 or their families; 118 worked there previously, and 52 are now employed there. Eighty-eight percent of the existing staff are women. There were 18 known cases of cancer between 1949 and 1993. Most of the patients were diagnosed in the 1980s, according to the ministry statement, except for two reported in the 1970s. Two of the victims developed cancer within a year of starting to work at the lab, and two more within two years of being hired; their disease is "apparently not connected" to their workplace, said Medan.

According to Medan, all professions pose certain health dangers; the employer must reduce the risk as much as possible. Among his recom-

mendations is that potential employees be informed beforehand of possible health risks in their job. He said that to his knowledge, there has been no comparable survey of lab workers abroad.

Asher Goldschleger, head of the union of state microbiologists and lab workers, said he welcomed the survey and its recommendations, which were the result of pressure from the union. "There are 8,000 lab workers in the country, not only in medicine but also in the veterinary service, agriculture and other fields - and we want all to be studied."

Goldschleger added that the Modan report "should have been made public in a press conference, and reporters should have been invited to the minister's visit to the lab. The results cannot be hidden from the public."

The ministry said that much money has been spent during the past year on protective equipment for workers, who were advised on hygienic precautions to avoid contact with chemicals. In addition, the entire lab will be moved to a new facility in the Givat Shaul quarter within two years.

Day care centers to open on time, fees up by 30%

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE 800 day care centers owned by the three large women's organizations will open their gates to 45,000 toddlers and pre-school children tomorrow, the first day of the new school year.

The threat to the day care centers was removed yesterday, following an agreement reached by Na'amat, Wizo and Emunah with the government concerning the coverage of the centers' financial deficit and the division of their operation expenses.

The Treasury agreed that the women's organizations' share in subsidizing the centers would be reduced from 25% to 10%, while the government foots 15%. The remaining 75% will be covered by the parents, whose fees would be raised by some 30%.

High income families will pay NIS 680 a month per child while the lowest earners will pay NIS 170.

The women's organizations had threatened to shut down the centers unless the government took care of the accumulated NIS 60 million deficit in their accounts and updated its share of the expenses.

The deficit was caused by the government's ignoring rising costs and workers' wages, which forced the women's organizations to increase their subsidies of the centers over the past 25 years. Moreover, the government would not cover the security expenses, as it does in schools and the rest of the education system.

According to the agreement reached yesterday, the Treasury will channel NIS 35m. to the women's organizations, a sum which would cover the new wage agreements with the centers' workers and enable the day care centers to resume operation.

It was agreed that the organizations would present the Treasury with their financial balances, and receive an advance as part of a grant to cover their deficits. The final sum of the grant has not been determined yet, but representatives of the women's organizations yesterday expressed satisfaction with the fact that the government recognizes its responsibility for causing and covering the huge deficit.

It was also decided that a joint committee would examine all the costs and expenses of operating the centers. The women's organizations are demanding that the recognized costs include "heavy" issues such as wage agreements with center workers and investments in structures and equipment, which are the main cause of the deficit.

The women's organizations are still waiting the government's reply to their demand for security expenses for 45,000 pre-school children. Last week the government decided to direct NIS 90m. to the local authorities for schools' security expenses, but did not see fit to cover the security arrangements in the day care centers as well.

Most children injured in accidents when failing to cross at crosswalks

Jerusalem Post Staff

EIGHTY percent of children injured in traffic accidents are hurt because they fail to cross the street in crosswalks, according to statistics released yesterday by the Transportation Ministry's Road Safety Administration.

An analysis of the data showed that the times when the majority of the accidents occurred were between 7 and 8 a.m., 12 and 1 p.m. and 4 and 6 p.m., when children are on their way to and from school or to and from after-school activities.

Otniel Schneller, director of the Road Safety Administration, said the police, the Military Police, the IDF, the National Council for the Prevention of Road Accidents, and a large group of volunteers would work to guarantee pupils' safety to and from school. He called on parents to review crossing procedures with their children, helping them to find a "safe route" to and from school.

Under the slogan "Stop Before You Cross," the administration has taken steps to have municipalities prepare for the school year by painting crosswalks, repairing guard rails, and placing traffic signs and road safety signs near schools.

According to the statistics released yesterday, 4,341 pupils - 1,642 pedestrians - up to age 14 were hurt in traffic accidents last year, including 51 fatalities, 37 of them pedestrians. These figures were down slightly from 1992, when 4,568 pupils were injured - 1,727 pedestrians - and 53 were killed.

Sarajevo child amputees arrive for treatment

Seven children who have lost limbs in the civil war in the former Yugoslavia arrived here yesterday from Sarajevo for treatment. The children, ages 16 and 17, will receive a series of rehabilitation treatments before returning home.

Two girls victims of gang rapes in north

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl was raped by four youths on Haifa's southern beach late Monday night.

Two suspects, age 17 and 18, have been arrested, with the former being remanded yesterday for six days by Haifa Magistrate's Court. The youth denied all charges, saying he was at the beach at the time but with a different group of people. Police are still searching for the other two suspects.

A couple at the beach heard someone crying for help and found the girl, naked and shaken. They took her to the police station, where she said she had been gang raped by four youths, three of whom she knows.

She said three of them held her

down while a fourth raped her, with all of them taking turns.

Police said the girl had been examined by doctors and was referred for counseling to Haifa's Rape Crisis Center.

Also yesterday, it was revealed that a 16-year-old girl who studies at a boarding school in the north was repeatedly raped by her peers.

Nazareth Magistrate's Court Judge Yehuda Abramovitch yesterday allowed the publication of the indictment against four pupils, charged with raping the girl from the beginning of this year until last month. The indictment includes all of the incidents of rape against the girl. (Iim)

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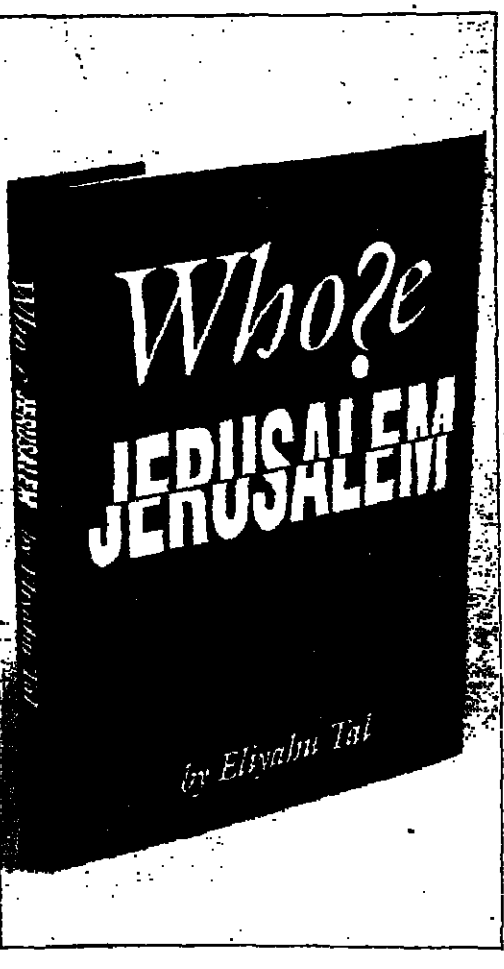
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Stolen calves may be rabid

Nineteen possibly rabid calves were stolen Sunday night from a pashut in Moshav Rishon. The calves were undergoing a six-month quarantine period following the death of a rabid cow there two weeks ago.

The Veterinary Service yesterday issued a warning that all the calves could be rabid and dangerous to anyone who comes in contact with them.

Murder suspect released

The man police had suspected of murdering Jerusalem lawyer Shmuel Levinson was released from detention yesterday for insufficient evidence.

Kamal Siyam, 25, of A-Ram, had been held by police since August 5, three days after Levinson was shot dead in his Rehavia neighborhood apartment.

Siyam has categorically denied involvement in the crime.

Ramallah woman caught smuggling arms

An elderly Ramallah woman was arrested on arrival at the Allenby Bridge two days ago after soldiers examining her luggage found three pistols, five ammunition clips, and 100 9mm bullets.

The woman, identified as Wafiq Hadin, had wrapped the guns in aluminum foil, but they showed up on the X-ray machine at the Israeli terminal, the IDF said.

Guard shot Israel Railways worker

Hadera police have launched a search for a guard at the city's train station who apparently shot and wounded an employee of Israel Railways on Monday night.

The victim is still hospitalized at Harel Yofeh Hospital in serious condition after undergoing surgery. He said he was working when the guard suddenly pulled his gun and shot him. It is feared that the guard may take his life, police said.

The shooting was sparked, police believe, by an argument between the two in which racial insults were exchanged.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, seven of hearts, nine of diamonds and queen of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 7, 31, 34, 35, 43, 47, and the additional number was 40.

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Teenage driver killed 6 hours after getting his license

DAVID RUDGE

JUST six hours after receiving his driver's license, a teenage motorist was killed in an accident along the Haifa-Acre highway in the bay-side suburbs area on Monday night.

A short time earlier, Yehzekel Nahmani, 17, from Kiryat Bialik, had received a ticket for a traffic violation which was still in his trouser pocket at the time of the fatal crash.

The tragedy began around 4 p.m. Monday when Nahmani received his driver's license after passing his test and went to pay the appropriate fees. Later he took out his family's car and during the early evening was stopped by police and given a ticket for a minor violation.

Around 10 p.m., he again took the car out for a drive with four friends to celebrate getting his license. He never returned home from the second drive.

Police said the young driver lost control of the vehicle on a curve in

the dual carriageway. The car hit a pylon in the center of the road and then careened across the carriageway and crashed into a parked tanker truck.

The car was crushed underneath the tanker and it took firemen, MDA medics and police over an hour to release the five occupants. Nahmani suffered severe injuries and died in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday morning.

The four passengers were taken to Rambam and Bnei Zion (Rothschild) Hospital after suffering moderate to serious injuries.

Police questioned the driver of the tanker which had allegedly been parked in a prohibited area. Later police said they intended to carry out a campaign to crack down on motorists, especially truck drivers, who parked their vehicles in prohibited places.

World Bank to give PA \$250 million

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE World Bank is to release \$250 million to the Palestinian Authority by the end of 1994, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir said yesterday.

The decision breaks a nearly one-year deadlock in the transfer of funds to the Palestinians, since donors pledged \$750m. for the first year of a five-year, \$2.4 billion development program.

Although the US and the World Bank are not completely satisfied with the Palestinians' accounting, both are ready for some funds to be released soon, Savir said.

"The problem is not with the mechanism but with the accountability for salaries. They have made some progress, but it's not perfect," Savir said of the Palestinians.

Knesset to hold special session today

EVELYN GORDON

ISSUES ranging from the proposed tax on the stock exchange to the future of negotiations with the Palestinians will be debated at a special Knesset session today.

MKs were able to muster the 30 signatures necessary for a special session for 21 different motions for the agenda.

On the economic front, the main topic is the stock exchange tax, about which Likud, Labor, Meretz and Mokedet all submitted motions. Other economic topics include inflation, housing and the plight of the Arab municipalities.

On the political front, there are two motions dealing with terror and the PLO. One, by the Likud, is titled "The ongoing terror and the continuation of talks with the PLO"; the other, by Labor, is entitled "The continuation of talks with the Palestinians and the war against terror." MK Avigdor Kahalani will present the Labor motion.

Other political topics include the Moslems' control of the Temple Mount, opening the Machpelah Cave to Jewish worshippers, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's "willingness to give up the entire Golan."

Social issues on the agenda include the increase in violence against women, the crisis hitting day-care centers, and the reduction in school guards.

The plenum will also vote on several minor government bills, many related to the economy.

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